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HOWNIIKAN

Mkogisos / February 2015

People of the Fire

Tribal land detachment fails despite no opposing public comments



The city commission chambers remained full of supporters of the Tribal detachment.

On January 20, 2015, City of Shawnee commissioners denied a request from the Citizen Potawatomi Nation to detach its tribal lands south of the North Canadian River. The hearing on the issue was ordered by a Pottawatomie County judge after a city court clerk denied the tribe's Sept. 10, 2014 detachment petition.

Shawnee City Clerk Phyllis Loftis stated in her notice of insufficiency that of the 1,724 acres requested for detachment, the Citizen Potawatomi Nation only owned 566 acres. The remaining lands, Loftis wrote, belonged to the government of the United States due to their status as trust land.

A letter dated Oct. 6, 2014 from Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs Kevin Washburn addressed that issue, with the federal official stating emphatically that tribes are the owners of such land.

"Indian tribes are the beneficial owners of land held for them in trust by the United States. As such, tribes enjoy full and exclusive possession, use, and enjoyment of trust lands. Further, tribal governments exercise

jurisdiction over trust lands, and trust lands are generally exempt from the jurisdiction of local and state governments, except where Congress has specifically authorized such jurisdiction," Washburn says in the letter.

Loftis also wrote in her notice of insufficiency that she had not determined if Vice-Chairman Linda Capps had the authority to bind the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, essentially ruling that the Tribe's second highest office holder had no right to petition on behalf of CPN.

Article 6, Section 3 of the CPN Constitution states "the Vice-Chairman shall perform the duties of the Chairman in his absence or during his incapacity to act as defined by law, and shall undertake such other duties as may be assigned to him by the Chairman or by law."

On Jan. 20, 2015, prior to the start of the public hearing on detachment, Mayor Mainord expressed that he'd only allow 30 minutes for comments from those supporting the detachment petition. Mainord's decision was without precedent, especially

considering that a separate detachment petition brought in September 2014 had no time restrictions placed on it.

When CPN counsel Tom Ferguson advised Mainord that the judge had not limited the time for the hearing, the mayor replied that it was not the judge's meeting and he would decide the time limits.

During the commissioners' comments portion of the meeting, Commissioner Lesa Shaw expressed her disappointment at the Tribe not being allowed to speak during the body's Oct. 20, 2014 meeting. Shaw also said she regretted that issue had to be decided by the court and encouraged fellow commissioners to listen to the public comments and move the issue forward.

Commissioner Michael Dykstra echoed those sentiments and urged a decision be based on the facts and opinions represented at the evening's hearing.

CPN counsel Bruce Winston was the first to speak and previewed presentations showing the Tribe's original detachment petition was sufficient, that Vice-Chairman

Linda Capps did have the authority to sign it on behalf of the Tribe and that Shawnee continues to neglect a reasonable level of services south of the river.

Tribal Chairman John "Rocky" Barrett spoke next and reiterated that the CPN constitution allows for Vice-Chairman Capps to act on behalf of the Tribe in signing the petition. Chairman Barrett stated that he authorized her to do so in this specific case, and also referred to the letter from Bureau of Indian Affairs head Kevin K. Washburn, explaining that it included information on federal preemption on tribal land.

The Washburn letter states that "tribal governments exercise jurisdiction over trust lands, and trust lands are generally exempt from the jurisdiction of local and state governments, except where Congress has specifically authorized such jurisdiction."

Federal preemption, as the chairman clarified, means federal and tribal laws applied on Indian trust land, overruling claims of state, county and municipal laws. Only the United States Congress can overturn such statutes.

Dr. Kelli Mosteller, an expert in Potawatomi history, discussed how the Citizen Potawatomi Nation came to be in Oklahoma and the manner in which Tribal land was illegally annexed into the town of Shawnee.

Referencing nineteenth century treaties signed with the U.S. government, Dr. Mosteller described the conditions for the Tribe's move from Kansas to Indian Territory in February of 1838. According to Dr. Mosteller, the Kansas-Indian Territory migration was the third removal forced upon the Tribe in forty years. An 1867 treaty stipulated that a Tribal delegation would travel to Indian Territory and select a thirty square mile reservation purchased with proceeds from a sale of Kansas-based Tribal lands to the railroad. In 1869, a group of Citizen Potawatomi traveled more than three hundred miles and selected a tract of land in the center of the territory to become the site of the Citizen Potawatomi reservation. CPN paid \$119,790, or approximately \$325 million in today's money, for the land that would become Pottawatomie County, Oklahoma.

The first, and larger, parcel of land allegedly annexed by this city ordinance was a 194-acre tract that presently houses the Absentee Shawnee Tribal gift

(Cont. page 2)

Eagle aviary calendars for sale

The CPN Eagle Aviary has had several noteworthy moments in its few years in operation. Fortunately, many of those special moments have been documented by the two eagle aviary employees, Jennifer Randell and Bree Dunham.

"We have had many requests for photos and calendars of the eagles. Finally we were able to sit down and put it together," explained Randell. "We wanted to give people a small look into the lives of our CPN eagles, their unique personalities and incredible presence."

The CPN Eagle Aviary offers a 12-month calendar with full color photos that highlight each bald eagle housed at the aviary. Each month includes shots taken by Randell and Dunham



Eagle aviary calendars cab be purchased online at giftshop.potawatomi.org.

documenting the eagles' daily lives. Each month also contains a biography for the featured eagle, including their origin,

why they are there and what their personality is like. "This calendar showcases the amazing faces we get to meet each day with. It is an honor to serve in this capacity for the CPN. We just wanted to share some of those moments captured on film," continued Randell.

The calendars are \$15 if purchased at the FireLake Gift shop, but a \$6 shipping fee is added for online purchases. All proceeds benefit the CPN Eagle Aviary.

"The CPN Eagle Aviary is such a great asset to tribal members and visitors who want to better understand Potawatomi culture," said Cultural Heritage Center Director Dr. Kelli Mosteller. "Now everyone gets to have a chance to have a little piece of

that experience in their homes with these calendars."

The calendars can be purchased online at <https://giftshop.potawatomi.org>. Find out more information by calling FireLake Gifts at 405-275-3119.



Scan this QR Code to visit the gift shop.

shop and offices as well as the CPN Cultural Heritage Center. This parcel was controlled by the Bureau of Indian Affairs until it was divided between the Citizen Potawatomi Nation and the Absentee Shawnee Tribe in 1963.

In April of 1962, four months after the supposed annexation of the lands, the business committee of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation approved a resolution outlining how the lands being relinquished by the Bureau of Indian Affairs were to be divided between CPN and the Absentee Shawnee Tribe in Pottawatomie County. Tribal resolutions and minutes from the business committee meetings suggest the Citizen Potawatomi Nation believed that the federal government, specifically the United States Public Health Service, still owned the land in 1962.

Because the two parcels in question were owned by the federal government and the tribes, Dr. Mosteller concluded, federal law required the signature and authority of the secretary of interior before it was sold. The City of Shawnee never determined who owned the land and never requested permission of the secretary of the interior or the Citizen Potawatomi Nation business committee or tribal members before their rushed annexation.

CPN Assistant Environmental Director Shawn Howard then spoke, explaining that in 2013 CPN received \$315,000 from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to assess air and water quality in the Tribal jurisdiction. Within months of receiving these federal funds both Shawnee and CPN benefitted from this program.

Howard discussed the city's lack of diligence compared to CPN in regulating and monitoring environmental quality and cited recent examples of how this lack of oversight negatively impacted Tribal lands.

“On Sept. 5, 2013, our department staff noticed an illegal discharge of raw sewage from the city’s lift station directly into the North Canadian River,” said Howard. “Just months later, on Dec. 4, 2013, our workers again witnessed and reported a separate sewage pipe leak that was, again, flowing directly into river.”

As Howard noted, if Tribal

“Though our department monitors environmental factors in our tribal jurisdiction, the very nature of our work means we also look out for our neighbors in Shawnee and other surrounding communities...I imagine residents further down the river in places like South Rock Creek and other municipalities are thankful that we caught the city’s

Vice-Chairman Capps then spoke to the Tribe's development of infrastructure south of the river.

“When my family moved to the area in the late 1970s, Gordon Cooper Drive and what is now the Tribal headquarters seemed like one of the darkest spots on earth after the sun went down. It took until 2007 when the Nation



Commissioner Keith Hall explains that though no one publicly spoke against the detachment, he has constituents who do not agree with CPN's request who wish to remain anonymous.

sewage leaks in 2013,” concluded Howard.

Art Muller, director of the CPN Roads Department, spoke about the impact of federal dollars brought to the community by Citizen Potawatomi Nation. Since 2012, CPN has paid for and overseen \$9.6 million in construction and repairs of roads, parking lots and other motor vehicle infrastructure.

“Some of you have been witnesses to the Tribe’s ability to assist the city in repairing some of its most important roads,” stated Muller. “I am referring to the Tribe’s 2012 agreement with the city to provide \$625,000 for the resurfacing of the James W. Allen Bridge, which is the beginning of Gordon Cooper Drive. That was a project where a combination of tribal and federal money specifically designated for Native American governments saved this town’s government more than half a million dollars to repair a municipal road.”

Muller also mentioned the Tribe's \$500,000 contribution to fund a street widening project of Gordon Cooper Drive from Benson Park Road to Bob Crouch Drive in Tecumseh. He also detailed Tribal provisions of rock, gravel and other support to Pottawatomie County Commissioners Melissa Dennis and Eddie Stackhouse for upkeep on separate county roads.

"I can guarantee you, the people driving on these thoroughfares don't care about who repaired the roads, they just care that

finally reached an agreement with OG&E to put street lights on both Gordon Cooper Drive and Hardesty Road,” said Vice-Chairman Capps.

She went on to detail the Tribe's payments to the state's largest electricity provider. Vice-Chairman Capps also pointed out that Tribal payment for streetlights on a city street are unprecedented in terms of any other customer in Shawnee's city limits.

Tribal Economic Development Director Dr. Jim Collard then provided an overview of the impact of CPN, which has been a tremendous boost to the local economy for a total of \$558 million in 2013. Dr. Collard educated commissioners on the more than \$10 million in sales tax revenue generated by CPN employees annually. Dr. Collard also explained that 30 cents of every dollar in the local community is spent by Tribal businesses.

The county's largest employer by far, CPN is responsible for seven of every 10 jobs created in Shawnee in the past decade according to Dr. Collard.

Also speaking in his role as police chief, Dr. Collard described the role of the CPNPD, which oversees a 900-square mile jurisdiction in three counties.

“Our officers are first responders and essential backup to our brother agencies like the Shawnee

Police Department and the Pottawatomie County Sheriff's Department," said Dr. Collard as he urged commissioners to vote for the detachment. "Our Tribal police will continue to back up our fellow officers whenever they need, as is our duty as public servants. Detachment means more cooperation between neighbors, no more, no less."

Although more speakers were prepared to give statements, CPN Tribal member and employee

Former city commissioner and Shawnee resident Tom Claybrook came forward and said he was neither for nor against the petition for detachment. He then went on to ask the current city commissioners' what the logic was in keeping CPN in the city before being cut off by the mayor. Commissioners then opened time for their own discussion of the matter, with Ward 2's Linda Agee asking what the tax implications would be for new businesses on Tribal trust land following the 2013 passage of the HEARTH Act. Further discussion followed on that matter before Ward 4's Keith Hall praised CPN for its philanthropic efforts in town.

However, Hall contended that while he did not wish to threaten litigation against CPN for failure to collect municipal grocery sales taxes, he was looking out for all of the town's residents, not just those who were Tribal members or employees.

Hall made no mention of the fact that his push to amend the city charter in November 2014 allowed the city's voters to have the final say, even if the commission voted for detachment.

The legitimacy of his Sept. 4, 2014 statement that, “the city commission is not smarter than all the city’s voters. The people should have the ability to make a decision on such an important matter,” was apparently lost on the Ward 4 representative.

Vice-Mayor James Harrod briefly disputed Dr. Mosteller's presentation in his remarks. Harrod, who represents Ward 3, said that he disputed the Tribal expert's claim about the illegal annexation. In 1961, said Harrod, Oklahoma had no open meeting laws and even if they were in place, "no one paid any attention to them."

Finally, with all comments concluded, the commissioners cast a 3-3 tie, with Commissioner Gary Vogel absent. Commissioner Hall, Vice-Mayor Harrod and Mayor Mainord all voted against the detachment while commissioners Agee, Shaw and Dykstra cast ballots in the affirmative. Given that a majority is needed to affirm such measures, the detachment petition failed.

For Vogel, his absence reflects a generally anti-tribe trend in his voting record when it comes to matters concerning CPN. He has either abstained, which by state law counts as a no vote, or voted against measures that Tribal representatives or interests required an affirmative vote.

The entire hearing's proceedings can be seen at <http://tinyurl.com/ShawneeCommission>.

Tulsa to host 2015 Native Trading at the River Conference

Our Native American Business Network announced its May 2015 Trading at the River Conference and Native Marketplace will take place in Tulsa, Okla. It is the first time in more than a decade that the conference will be held outside of Oregon and Washington. The Muscogee (Creek) Nation is this year's conference hosts with events and showcases taking place at the River Spirit Casino and RiverWalk.

“Trading at the River is a unique experience for entrepreneurs, small business owners and economic development practitioners to gather, exchange and grow,” said ONABEN Executive Director Veronica Hix. “The change in venue next

year will be a great opportunity to be able to share Trading at the River outside of the Pacific Northwest.”

The Citizen Potawatomi Community Development Corporation will also be at this year's event. The CPCDC provides financial products and counseling services to the Citizen Potawatomi Nation members and employees nationwide. It is also a lender and business counselor to Native American owned-businesses throughout Oklahoma, regardless of tribal affiliation.

“We will be there in some capacity because this is a great networking event,” said Cindy Logsdon, CPCDC assistant director. “We intend to market to our current

artisan clients and those who attended our artisan training last year.”

ONABEN will also partner with the Cherokee Nation TERO and Mvskoke Loan Fund to present Trading at the River. Anchoring the conference is a marketplace where native artists, crafters and other vendors can showcase and sell their products and services.

ONABEN was created in 1991 through a partnership of four Oregon-based tribes. Their goal was to encourage private sector development on tribal reservation lands. Over the year, the organization has expanded its services by offering curriculum, training and organizational consulting for Native American-owned business.

SMALL BUSINESS CONFERENCE NATIVE MARKETPLACE



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River Spirit Event Center
May 5-6, 2015 Tulsa, Oklahoma
tradingattheriver.com



Language with Justin

By Justin Neely, CPN Language Department Director

We have many upcoming events in the language department to talk about as we push towards spring after a cold Oklahoma winter.

First off, the development of our self-paced language online class is coming along well. We are still anticipating a summer 2015 opening. The class will have 40 topics organized with 10 lessons in a unit. At the end of each topic, students will receive cultural instruction that is relevant to the Potawatomi. For instance, we'll explain the importance of the eagle, how to bead for regalia along with the significance of tobacco and medicine wheel teachings.



Pondese will be the subject of one of our winter tales.

We appreciate your patience as we develop this great learning tool, and watch here for updates and sneak peeks of what is to come.

Our highly anticipated third annual Winter Story Telling event will take place February 25 from 6:00-7:30 p.m. in the CPN Cultural Heritage Center

long room. We have had great attendance in the past and hope for a similar turnout this year. Many of our traditional stories which involve Wiske the trickster can only be told in the winter, as it is during this time that the spirits are asleep. In keeping with this tradition we will share a number of these “cold weather” stories at this event. We will also have snacks and drinks for those in attendance. Please give us a heads up if you know you are coming by February 20 so we can plan accordingly.

Our next series of beginner language classes will begin Monday, Feb. 16 from 5:30- 6:30 at the Cultural Heritage Center. There is no cost for the class only a desire to learn. Please let us

know you are coming by February 12 so we will know how many to prepare for.

As always if there are any questions or concerns please don't hesitate to contact me at jneely@potawatomi.org.



Scan this QR code to watch the latest language video.

Tribal Roads Department fills gaps in municipal, county, and state services

Gordon Cooper Drive, named after Shawnee's most notable export besides Brad Pitt, runs south from the edge of town at the North Canadian River and into the jurisdiction of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation. Contrary to some municipally-owned roads in the town's southern periphery which show signs of disrepair, stretches of Gordon Cooper Drive down to Benson Park Road tend to be well maintained.

“It's technically a City of Shawnee road,” explained Art Muller, director in charge of the Tribal roads department. “But we contract most of the work that is done, and pay for, what is essentially a city street that runs through the Tribe's trust land.”

Many main roadways south of the river in northern Pottawatomie County in the Tribal jurisdiction fall under the supervision of Muller and his four person department. Though they may be small in numbers, Muller's staff has overseen more than \$9.6 million in construction and repairs of roads, parking lots and other motor vehicle infrastructure since 2010.

The funds used by the roads department emanate from the Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration's Tribal Transportation Program, a unique source of revenue that like many CPN programs, are only available to tribal entities.

“When we can assist the county



CPN's road's department oversees the construction and maintenance of a number of thoroughfares in the Tribe.

and city where their roads run on Tribal trust land, we do so,” said Muller.

The maintenance of this infrastructure is especially important in a country so reliant on the automobile. An increasingly outdated federal gas tax and more fuel efficient vehicles have cut into the monies used to improve America's aging road infrastructure.

Fixed at 18 cents per gallon since 1993 and not tied to inflation, the gas tax faces steadily decreasing revenues despite Americans' reliance on the automobile. These shortfalls have directly impacted the federal Highway Trust Fund. For the last 13 years, the fund's expenditures have exceeded its revenue, resulting in budgetary shortfalls across the U.S. as roads, bridges and other automobile-related infrastructure deteriorates.

The lack of revenue at the top has

impacted construction and repairs at the state, county and local levels, leaving many American roads in constant states of triage. Into these budgetary shortfalls step tribal entities like the CPN Roads Department, which has access to federal money intended to improve infrastructure on tribal lands. In many areas in Pottawatomie County, tribal-local partnerships at the city and county levels have proved fruitful.

In 2012, following an agreement with the Shawnee City Commission, CPN provided \$625,000 for the resurfacing of the southbound lanes of the James W. Allen bridge. Spanning the North Canadian River on Shawnee's southern city limits, the bridge is essentially the starting point for Gordon Cooper Drive. The Tribe had access to the funds through the federal government's American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, which was passed in the aftermath of the 2008 financial

crisis.

In January 2015, CPN's \$500,000 contribution to the southern portions of Gordon Cooper Drive allowed a long-planned street widening project to move forward. With funds from CPN, the City of Tecumseh, Pottawatomie County and the Oklahoma Department of Transportation, construction will begin to widen the road to four lanes between Bob Crouch Drive and Benson Park Road.

The roads overseen by the Pottawatomie County Commission are also beneficiaries of Tribal funds. The CPN Roads Department contributed funds for the rock coverage of Westech Road in northwestern Pottawatomie County as well as road repairs on Hardesty Road just east of Gordon Cooper Drive.

The Tribal roads department also oversees the construction of parking lots, maintenance of transit vehicles and street lights in its jurisdiction. Those taking a nighttime drive along a well-lit Gordon Cooper Drive towards Hardesty Road ride atop the department's work.

Like all governmental entities, the department accepts bids from vendors for each individual project.

“Once the project enters the construction phase, it isn't cost effective for the Tribe to do the work ourselves,” said Muller. “If it's a rainy day, and we'd still have to pay our Tribal employees even though there was no work being done. By doing it this way, the

contractor takes on these costs as part of the fixed contract agreement and the Tribe is able to oversee the project while saving money.”

Like many of Oklahoma's larger tribes, the presence of an organized and efficient Tribal roads program benefits all residents and businesses, both Native and non-Native within the tribe's jurisdiction and the surrounding communities. Roads like Gordon Cooper Drive and Hardesty Road are vital routes for the communities in and around Shawnee and Tecumseh. Their upkeep is an all-around positive for all citizens, local emergency services and private businesses.

“We do pretty well considering we oversee roads of some kind from McCloud to Sacred Heart,” said Muller. “Currently, CPN has more than 1,100 miles of paved roads and 453 miles of unpaved roads that qualify for funding and repair.”

The department's work is emblematic of CPN and other neighboring tribes' roles in the Shawnee-Tecumseh area, filling in where cities or state services have receded. An often thankless job that is only noticed once someone hits a pothole, Tribal programs and departments like Muller's remain vital institutions in the maintenance of rural infrastructure needs.

If you would like to learn more about the CPN's Roads Department, please call 405-878-4672.

WIC program acquires van for mobile clinic

The Citizen Potawatomi Nation Women Infants and Children program recently acquired a new van to be used as a mobile clinic for clients unable to reach its main location. The program received the van through an operational adjustment grant.

“My goal has always been to go south in Pottawatomie County to places like Wanette and the areas where CPN's Rural Water District 3 serves,” said CPN WIC Director Shelly Schneider. “At the time these clients have to either go to Shawnee or Ada for the closest WIC program. We want to take WIC to them in an effort to make it easier for our clients where there are not a lot of resources readily available.”

In many parts of rural, southern

Pottawatomie County, a lack of readily available infrastructure leaves few locations for WIC staffers to set up equipment and administer to program clients. With the van serving as the new mobile office, the department can

go anywhere and be set up as a full service clinic.

The 2015 Ford Transit-250 High Roof is one of the largest cargo vans in its class with an extended wheel base and ceiling high



The Ford Transit-250 High Roof will serve customers throughout CPN WIC's service area.

enough that individuals taller than six feet can stand upright in it.

“We need this feature as we will be weighing and measuring standing height on women and children,” said Cheryl Richardson, Nutrition and Breastfeeding Coordinator, CPN WIC. “We also will have a work bench that will support a weighing and measuring board for infants.”

Another workbench will serve as an area to do bloodwork such as hemoglobin tests, input digital data as well as print benefit checks. The van will be equipped with storage shelving on the opposite wall of the vehicle to house supplies while a combination of an alternator and generator will power everything inside the mobile WIC clinic.

“This venture has been a long time coming because some areas in Pottawatomie County are very underserved,” said Schneider. “We're excited to get the vehicle out there and continue to give our clients the best possible service we can.”

Today the CPN program serves 1,200 participants in central Oklahoma at three permanent sites. It also operates three mobile satellite sites that move around to meet the needs of participants in the CPN WIC service area. If you or someone you know would like more information about CPN WIC or a program in your area, please call 405-273-3216 or visit www.potawatomi.org/services/health/wic.

Tough choice leads to a decade of service at FireLake Express Grocery for Mike Lester



Mike Lester.

CPN's impact on Pottawatomie County's largest city, Shawnee, Okla., is well known. Since 2001 alone, Tribal employment has accounted for 7 of every 10 new jobs in Shawnee. That impact doesn't stop there though. Lying just south of Shawnee is the City

of Tecumseh, home to another CPN-owned enterprise that is that community's largest employer.

FireLake Express Grocery, the only grocer in the town of 6,400, offers a variety of non-perishable foodstuffs along with fresh meat,

dairy and produce. Since opening in 2004, Manager Mike Lester has been at the helm of the store's day-to-day operations.

Lester, who got his start in the grocery store sector as a sacker at Pratt Foods, kept in touch with that chain's then-manager, Richard Driskell. His former manager, now a longtime Director of FireLake Discount Foods, approached the Macomb High School graduate about working for the Tribe.

"Richard mentioned one day to me to come work for the new grocery store he was managing," said Lester. "I had a job at the time, so it was something I really had to think about."

Having grown up in Pottawatomie County though, Lester's familiarity with the area and its people, coupled with his past experience working with Driskell, eventually swayed him to join the Tribe.

"That was one of the best decisions I've ever made," said Lester. "Working for CPN you truly feel like you're a part of a family."

The FireLake Express store manager has witnessed the growth of the Tribe's grocery stores since the opening of FireLake Discount Foods in 2001, when he began serving as that store's assistant manager. His success there resulted in Lester's nomination to head the Tecumseh operation when the Tribe decided to open FireLake Express Grocery in 2004.

"At the time there wasn't a grocery store in Tecumseh," he explained. "Even more complicated was the fact that the city government of Tecumseh wasn't sure if having the grocery store there would benefit the community."

Now ten years into operations though, the city fathers' initial hesitation has given way to enthusiasm for the grocery store's positive impact in the rural Oklahoma town.

"In the past decade we have outgrown the demand and all negative feelings about the grocery store moving in have gone by the wayside," Lester continued. "We employ up to 40 people, offer fresh meat and produce and

voluntarily give three percent of taxable sales that go back into the economy of Tecumseh."

The success of both FireLake Discount Foods and FireLake Express Grocery has resulted in another planned grocery enterprise spawned for the City of McLoud. Lester is helping with the development of the new store that will be open in 2015. Like FireLake Express Grocery, the McLoud operation will mirror Lester's current store, and will be a smaller version of FireLake Discount Foods that features a bakery and gas station.

On his days off Lester can be found in and around Pottawatomie County watching one of his four kids play sports. A self-described "football fanatic," Lester also officiates and plays flag football. His three boys play football and lacrosse and his only daughter is a cheerleader.

"I love getting to watch my boys play and my daughter cheer at their football games, but really whatever they have going on is what I do in my free time," said Lester.

Hope amidst the challenges for ICW's Connie Lobato

There are rarely dull moments in the day-to-day duties of workers in the Citizen Potawatomi Nation's Indian Child Welfare Department. Even the most repetitive tasks, such as filling out seemingly endless legal documents, can't easily be breezed through due to the fact that children's lives and future wellbeing often lie in the balance. In the face of such circumstances though, staff charged with the welfare of Potawatomi children nationwide go about their daily tasks in a sector where unfortunately, there is always another person to be served. One of those staff members is Connie Lobato.

Born in Scott City, Kansas but raised in Oklahoma, with a three year stint in Guam, Lobato knows well the areas in which the children under her supervision reside.

Like many of her contemporaries in the CPN Indian Child Welfare Department, Lobato faces each day's work with the knowledge that she has faced challenges of her own in life. Though Lobato decided to not complete high school the traditional way, she is just a few semesters away from completing her bachelor's degree at St. Gregory's University.

"I dropped out of high school in the tenth grade and lived on my own," explained Lobato. "But I started to study for my GED here

at CPN in 2002. I took my test in 2003 and went right into college."

Lobato had been with the Tribe for some time prior to completing her GED, having become an employee on a chance application one day towards the end of 1999.

"I worked at a place called Small Wonders in Tecumseh, and they ended up closing," said Lobato. "I drove by CPN Tribal headquarters and applied for a position in the child development center. They told me to come back the next Monday, and I've been here ever since."

Lobato currently serves as the ICW intake worker and as a case manager. Much of her work in the early parts of the day as an intake worker revolve around sending letters of denial, letters requesting additional information and letters for eligible or enrolled children.

"If the children are eligible or enrolled, I call the state worker handling a child's case to see if that child has been removed from the home. If they have, I provide the court handling that case an Entry of Appearance, which shows CPN as a party to the case," said Lobato.

Regardless of location in the U.S., if a child with Potawatomi lineage or Tribal membership falls into a state's child protection services, the Tribe, through ICW workers



Connie Lobato.

like Lobato, has a say in their placement and future care.

In that case, Lobato's second role, that of a case worker, comes into play.

"As a case manager I monitor cases and assist my supervisor, Janet Draper, with transportation, visits, calls and anything else she may need as she represents Potawatomi kids in state courts."

Like many ICW staff members, Lobato has seen the worst in people, explaining that the most difficult part of the job is removing children from their homes after being an eye witness

to the deplorable conditions they live in.

Yet, for this mother of two sons and grandmother of three grandchildren, those negatives are often outweighed by the positives that longtime ICW staff like Lobato point to as signs of hope amidst the gloom.

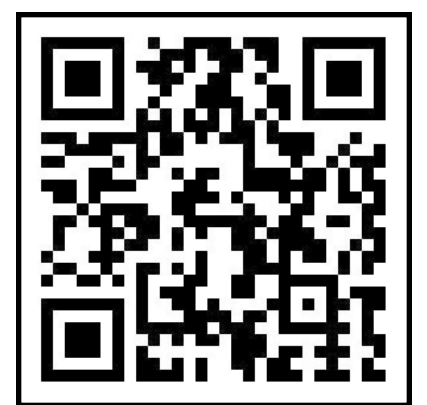
"I love children and this job is a way to give a child comfort in a very hard time in their little lives," she said. "The best I could do for them is to be positive and encourage the parents to become the best they can be. Nothing is more rewarding than to see a family reunited or an adoptive

family receive a child they have only dreamed of."

Lobato credits her longevity with the Tribe to ICW Director Janet Draper and ICW Supervisor Laurie Clark, calling them both great role models for the department's staff.

"Working at Citizen Potawatomi Nation has been a life changing experience," admitted Lobato. "I never dreamed of having a career that I love so much. I have always felt the encouragement to grow, not only as a worker, but as a human. I love my life and CPN is the biggest part of it."

If you would like to know more about Connie Lobato's work in the Citizen Potawatomi Nation's Indian Child Welfare Department and the FireLodge Children and Family Services, please visit <http://www.potawatomi.org/services/community> or call 405-878-4831.



Scan this QR code to learn more Connie's work.

Hownikan

1601 S. Gordon Cooper Drive, Shawnee, Oklahoma

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Questions: Toll-free 800-880-9880

Address changes should be sent to: Citizen Potawatomi Tribal Rolls, 1601 S. Gordon Cooper Drive, Shawnee, OK 74801.



Bozho,

On 28 December 2014 the CPN Veterans Organization lost another valued member and former commander, Joe David Melott, walked on. He will be greatly missed by friends and family.

January was the month of officer elections for the CPN Veterans Organization. The results will be in the next veterans report. However, there are several bits of valuable information that I would like to pass on to veterans.

First, I received a form in the mail from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs concerning a Veterans Choice Card. It is a card issued to every veteran enrolled in VA health care as



Joseph David Melott.

of Aug. 1, 2014 or eligible to enroll as a recently discharged combat veteran within five years of separation. The Choice Card allows veterans to elect to receive care outside of VA when they

qualify for the new program based on their residence or when wait times for VA health care exceed the standards established in law. You can submit your information by calling 877-222-8387 or online at www.ebenefits.va.gov and select the "Apply for VA Health Care" link under 'Recommended Resources.'

Second, military families usually communicate with each other by cell phones. That is why most major cell phone service providers offer military discounts to active duty service members, and in some cases, veterans as well. Do some comparison-shopping to find the right cell phone plan for you and your family. Remember to take into consideration the many different plans offered for cellular use (talk and text) and data use (internet connection). The savings can be 15 percent or more. Some of these providers include AT&T, Boost Mobile, nTelos Wireless, Sprint, T-Mobile, US Cellular, Verizon, and Vonage. Check it out.

We are in the final stages of planning our Vietnam War Era Veterans Memorial Banquet for the fall of this year. It is to honor the Citizen Potawatomi Nation men and women who served in

ATTENTION CPN VIETNAM VETERANS

The CPN Veterans Organization is seeking members of the armed forces who served from **August 5, 1964 – May 7, 1975** in preparation of organizing a Vietnam Era Veterans' Banquet.

In future editions of the *Hownikan*, a list of all members will be published. If you fit the criteria but do not see your name, please contact CPN Legislator David Barrett (dbarrett@potawatomi.org).

Please send inquiries to Commander Daryl Talbot (talbotok@sbcglobal.net) or CPN Legislator David Barrett.

the U.S. Armed Forces during the Vietnam War Era (Aug. 5, 1964 to May 7, 1975). Members of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation who were in the military during that time and would like to attend this memorial banquet please contact:

CPN Veterans Organization
1601 South Gordon Cooper Drive
Shawnee, OK 74801-9002

Remember the CPN Veterans Organization meets every month on the fourth Tuesday at 6:00 p.m. (or as soon as you can get there) in the North Reunion Hall on the Potawatomi Powwow Grounds. All CPN veterans and their families are welcome.

Migwetch!

Daryl Talbot, Commander

Selecting winter produce

Ebbs and flows of global demand and cold weather can make finding fresh produce in the winter a difficult task. However, a few of the freshest vegetables during the colder months lay just under the surface. Root vegetables such as potatoes, radishes and parsnips have some of the highest nutrient counts along with tasty staples like peanuts and pecans. Cabbage, kale and pomegranates also provide a high amount of nutrients for those looking to eat healthy while snowed in.

in color should not affect the flavor. Examine the squash to avoid sunken or moldy spots on the rind. Kale and other cabbage should be bold in color and firm. These vegetables help aid in digestion, protect against harmful cancer cells and lower cholesterol. Persimmons should be chosen when they have a deep and saturated hue. They can be found growing in the wild or can also be found at most grocery stores. According to the National Center for Biotechnology Information,



Winter produce like acorn squash are best when dark green.

Common winter vegetables like sweet potatoes, carrots and turnips can be found in most local grocery stores or farmers markets. These root vegetables, called that because of their status as underground parts of the plant, can be prepared in a variety of ways. These foods can be steamed, sautéed, roasted, grilled or even be eaten raw.

When looking for carrots, make sure they are firm and without roots still attached. They should be bright orange and smooth. Choose firm, not soft, sweet potatoes that have uniformly colored skins. Avoid sweet potatoes with cuts, signs of insects, or other defects on the skin.

Not all vegetables are hiding underground from winter's cold temperatures. Dark leafy greens, winter squash and citrus fruits also flourish in colder climates.

When picking winter squash, look for bold color and one with a hard, tough rind. Different variations

the antioxidants in persimmons can help control diabetes and the cell damage caused by it.

Lastly, tree nuts can provide much needed protein for a quick snack or side to a lunch during winter. Peanuts and pecans are sourced from Dec.-Feb. and can be found all across the country. If purchased at a local farm, don't be afraid to ask questions of how the nuts were processed on site. At a grocery store, look on the packaging's nutrition label to ensure the nuts don't have added salts, flavors or any other additives.

This winter, make your own root vegetable salad or stew. Grab some citrus and create a winter fruit dish. Or simply snack on farm-raised tree nuts like pecans and peanuts, which are more likely to be grown locally and as a result, be fresher in the winter. Buying local boosts the economy and ensures produce didn't travel across the world to get on your kitchen table.

Healthy Valentine's Day ideas

On a daily basis CPN Healthy Heart Coordinator and Dietitian, Torie Fuller MS RD/LD, guides patients of all ages on how best to live a healthier life. Through dieting advice to ideas for heart healthy activities, Fuller focuses on being creative and

adventurous, plan a date to an indoor rock climbing facility."

For kids' Valentine's Day gifts at school, have them give out boxes of raisins or pretzels. Another idea is to have kids hand out stickers or pencils as gifts. Selecting healthy

meats is an overall healthier option too. Salmon, mackerel and tuna can be tasty choices that have the right amount of protein with fewer calories.

Lastly, encourage a loved one to make a change towards a



bringing fresh suggestions to those she serves. This year, the CPN dietitian provided recommendations for people of all ages in order for them to have a healthy Valentine's Day.

"Quality time is one of the most meaningful gifts," said Fuller. "Bundle up and plan an active outing such as sledding, ice skating or gathering wood for a fire. If you're feeling really

options instead of processed sweets positively impacts both the giver and recipient.

"One way to slim down portion sizes when you go out to eat is to share one entrée with your date," said Fuller. "Since most meals at restaurants are enough for two people, splitting a meal will help you to avoid overindulging."

Choosing seafood over heavy

healthy habit. Be an example by ordering a non-fat latte, include more vegetables at dinner or put an end to unhealthy lifestyle habits such as smoking. A little bit of change goes a long way in the end.

For more healthy ideas for Valentine's Day or more information on living a healthier life please contact Torie Fuller at tfuller@potawatomi.org.



JOIN US!

For a Native American lunch and tour of CPN member Sharon Hoogstraten's "Dancing for my Tribe" exhibit.

SATURDAY, MARCH 21, 2015
11:30 AM - 3 PM

TRICKSTER ART GALLERY
190 S. ROSELLE RD., SCHAUMBURG, IL 60193

RSVP to Roy Slavin at 1-888-741-5767 or Rslavin@potawatomi.org
no later than March 14, 2015 as space is limited

February is National Children’s Dental Health Month

Serving thousands of tribal members from CPN and other federally recognized tribes, CPN Health Services 12 state-of-the-art dental operatories have been in overdrive since the dental clinic’s 2014 remodel. Cherokee Nation citizen and CPN Dental Coordinator, Chase Youngblood DDS, sat down with *The Hownikan* to answer a few questions regarding children’s dental health for February’s National Children’s Dental Health Month.

Why is important to keep children on a scheduled check-up for their teeth?

“Unlike adults, kids are not as likely to perceive sensitivity in their teeth, therefore when a

problem is detected it is usually a significant problem in their teeth rather than a preventative one.

“Kids are also less likely to floss but just as likely to have sweets in their diet, so cavities can pop up between and on top of the teeth rather quickly if not checked regularly.”

What is the best way to clean babies’ and toddlers’ teeth?

“Once any child has any teeth come in, those teeth can be cleaned. In babies and toddlers a good technique is to use with a soft washcloth to wipe the teeth off. When your child will allow you to, it is a good idea to start using a toothbrush.”



Chase Youngblood DDS.

Why are baby teeth important?

“In addition to the obvious functions of eating and speaking, baby teeth, also known as primary teeth, serve another very important purpose. They save space for the child’s future permanent teeth. This helps with proper development of the adult teeth and jaw structures. When this space is lost prematurely, there is a greater likelihood that a child will require braces.”

What kind of toothpaste do you recommend for children?

“The American Dental Association recommends that for children younger than three, caregivers should begin brushing children’s teeth as soon as they

come into the mouth by using no more than a grain of rice-sized fluoride toothpaste.

“Brush teeth thoroughly twice per day. It is important to not allow your child to swallow toothpaste containing fluoride, which is why you should limit the amount of toothpaste used until you are confident that they are spitting the toothpaste out.”

For those interested, the CPN Dental Clinic offers preventative care, teeth cleaning, annual exams and routine dental work. For more information, please visit www.potawatomi.org/services/health/clinics or call 405-878-4835.

Healthy Heart Program impacting lives

As the leading cause of death nationwide, heart disease has reached epidemic proportions in the United States. According to the Center for Disease Control’s latest figures from 2012, diseases of the heart were responsible for more than 9,000 deaths in Oklahoma alone. Poor diets, a lack of exercise and other habits of an unhealthy lifestyle contribute to this growing problem, though CPN’s Health Services continue programs intended to reduce these stark figures.

The Healthy Heart Program at Citizen Potawatomi Nation serves about 135 participants each year. Its goal is to help make those individuals more healthy and active in order to achieve a higher quality of life. Now entering its fifth year, the program will continue its work thanks to grant funding from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and Indian Health Services.

“The Healthy Heart program is for people with Type 2 Diabetes 18 years of age and older to prevent cardiovascular related diseases,” said healthy heart initiative program coordinator and dietitian Torie Fuller. “Cardiovascular disease is one of the top causes of death for people in the United States and people with diabetes are at even a greater



Healthy Heart Nurse, Megan Williams, discusses practical healthy living ideas with a patient.

risk of developing some type of cardiovascular disease in their lifetime.”

To remain active in the program participants must attend monthly case management appointments and finish four educational sessions. Goals are established and progress is monitored for each participant. Those who visit

the wellness center at least two times per month receive \$30 in nutrition vouchers.

“A cardiologist told me to start healthier lifestyle changes by increasing my physical activity and watching what I ate,” said Patricia Brollier, Healthy Heart participant. “I was the seventh person to join the Healthy Heart

Initiative. The program helps me choose the healthier foods to eat to maintain my health, manage my medications and encourages me to continue my physical activity. I’m now walking up to two miles per day.”

New to the program this year is a community garden. It allows participants to grow, harvest

and learn about the yields and how to prepare them at cooking demonstrations hosted by dieticians like Fuller. The program has also instituted a monthly grocery store tour at FireLake Discount Foods where participants learn how to shop for healthy items.

“My cardiologist recently gave me a great report of health and told me to pass the great news onto the Healthy Heart team for their great work in keeping me in such great shape,” said Brollier. “I recommend anyone who has Type 2 Diabetes join the Healthy Heart program for help in maintaining their good health and preventing complications that are associated with diabetes.”



Scan this QR code to learn more about the Healthy Heart Program.

McCloud’s Charles Glass walks marathon at CPN Wellness Center track

Charles Glass, a 60-year old McCloud resident, had been struggling with his weight for the last two decades. During that time, doctors advised that he should lose weight but neglected to offer substantial guidance on how to begin.

“When I would ask the doctor how to start or what I should do, they would tell me to take the spoon out of my mouth,” said Glass. “None of them gave me any kind of direction on how to start losing weight.”

Glass’ breaking point came at one of his wife’s doctor’s appointments when he told her physician about the pain he was experiencing. Following tests run by the doctor, the results showed Glass had problems with his liver, high blood pressure and high cholesterol.

“The doctor told me that I was going to be dead in a few years if I didn’t lose weight and start eating right,” said Glass.

In October 2014, he decided to seek the help of CPN Health Services Diabetic Dietitian

Rochelle Plummer, MS RD/LD, who explained the importance of making healthy food choices, portion control and encouraged him to start exercising.

“Before Rochelle taught me to eat right, I would drink a case of soda

a day and could eat a five pound bag of Tootsie Rolls in two days,” said Glass.

Plummer put Glass in touch with CPN Wellness Center Fitness Trainer Sarah Lawerance, who encouraged him to walk in the



Diabetes dietitian Rochelle Plummer, Charles Glass and Fitness Trainer Sarah Lawerance.

CPN Wellness Center’s indoor track. What started out as one hour a day soon turned into three hour daily walks. Glass’ newfound activity eventually led him to sign up for the wellness center’s “Hiking through the Holidays” competition.

“One day I came in to the gym to do my normal walk and Sarah told me that my competition was gaining on me,” said Glass. “I asked her how much I needed to finish this contest and she told me 25 miles.”

That push was all Glass would need. Instead of 25 miles, he walked 26.2 miles, which is 420 laps and the same distance as a full marathon.

“I just wanted to beat my competition and get my shirt for completing the contest,” said Glass. “I didn’t set out to walk a marathon.”

When he began his journey in October, he weighed 243 pounds. Today, Glass is almost 50 lbs. lighter and says his acid reflux is gone. Glass’ cholesterol and blood pressure are also down and

the doctor has decreased his daily medication.

“I don’t even feel like the same person. I have so much energy now and just feel better,” said Glass.

He credits his success to CPN’s Plummer and Lawerance for teaching him to eat right and pushing him to exercise. Glass also acknowledged CPN Administrative Assistant Tori Schimmel for encouraging him every day as he walked the walk.

“Those girls were a godsend to me. They were always friendly, encouraged me and that’s what made me want to go back,” said Glass.

While he has no plans to do another marathon, Glass says he would like to lose an additional 20 pounds and eventually add strength training to his workouts.

If you would like to learn more about the healthy living and fitness options available at the CPN Wellness Center, please call 405-395-9304.

How to address suspected domestic violence

The newfound focus on domestic violence in the national media is a small step towards confronting an issue that continues to plague American society. Domestic violence incidents involving high-profile athletes like the NFL’s Ray Rice, amongst dozens of others, have spurred individuals across the country to take a vocal stand against domestic violence in the media, online and in their personal lives.

While those positions are admirable, relationships involving mental and physical abuse tend to remain in the shadows. Though family, friends and co-workers may suspect someone they know of being abused, the difficulty of broaching the subject with a potential victim can be difficult. Victims even become conditioned to justify the reasons for their abuse.

“Victims truly love their abuser,” explained House of Hope’s Amanda Chapman. “Many times they believe they can change that person.”

Chapman, a child abuse and domestic violence prevention coordinator with House of Hope, explains how mental abuse can reinforce these beliefs, with the



Relationships involving mental and physical abuse tend to remain in the shadows.

perpetrator convincing the victim that they are the cause of the violence.

“Sometimes they begin to believe the lies they’ve been told, that it is their fault for being victimized, that no one else will love them or that if there are children involved, they want to keep the family

together.”

In many cases, a show of concern from someone outside this harmful dynamic can help end the cycle of violence.

If someone suspects their loved one or co-worker is caught in one of these relationships, the

first step is to ask questions in a gentle manner. Avoid judgment and a rush to provide immediate solutions to their problems. Rather, be a sounding board for them to explain their view of the situation. In many instances, domestic violence victims internalize their abuse and accompanying emotions.

Ultimately, the choice to leave the relationship must be the victim’s. However, providing avenues to escape can help move them in that direction. Provide the individual with information on local resources or safe shelters, like House of Hope, that specialize in family violence advocacy. Remind them that domestic violence is a crime, and that law enforcement agencies can be the first point of contact if need be.

If there are children involved, explain that in many instances, children who witness the abuse of a parent are profoundly impacted by those experiences.

Though there are no uniform rules in confronting such an ugly issue, the importance of remaining vigilant and supportive of those loved ones is vital.

“People stay in abusive relationships for many reasons,” said Chapman. “They are usually told by the abuser that they will change and need the victim’s help in making that change, but ultimately, that isn’t the victim’s responsibility. Only the abuser can make that change.”

BDC Gunroom hosts archery tournament

In its first month at their new location, BDC Gunroom has already become a prime location for community shooting and archery events. The gunroom played host to several area schools for an Oklahoma Pre-Qualifier National Archery In The Schools Program tournament. Students from South Rock Creek Middle School in Shawnee, Okla., Shawnee Middle School, and Earlsboro Public Schools

participated in the all-day event to advance to the Oklahoma Regional Qualifier tournament.

The Oklahoma National Archery In The Schools Program hosts students from fourth through twelfth grade. The instruction and competitions provide an opportunity to get youth out of the house.

South Rock Creek teacher Susan

Brooks reached out to Jack Barrett, owner of BDC Gunroom, to see if he was willing to host an OKNASP event.

“I’ve known Jack for a while and knew at the new BDC location they had an archery range,” said Brooks. “Normally at an archery tournament everyone is in the school’s gym and you have to put tarps on the floor and put nets up. This great facility has really helped everyone out.”

BDC Gun Room’s new 39,000 square foot indoor range and sales floor is four miles down the road from South Rock Creek.

“It’s just a nice way to support their programs and I’m glad BDC can be a part of the community,” said Barrett. “This facility will always be open for tournaments like this and we look forward to working more with the community in future events.”

South Rock Creek lies within CPN’s Tribal jurisdiction land and many members and children of Tribal employees attend school



Lizzie Lanier draws her bow in the new BDC Archery Range.



Participants from the Oklahoma National Archery In The Schools Program take aim.

there.

“CPN has always been wonderful to us,” said Brooks, who is in her second decade as the school’s archery instructor. “They have given our program funds for arrows, bows, targets and other supplies. We owe a lot to them

because of how much they have supported us since we began the program.”

For more information about BDC Gunroom, please call 405-273-9554 or visit them on the web at www.bdcgunroom.com.

2015 NEW YEAR AND NEW UPDATES NEEDED

If you have applied to the Citizen Potawatomi Nation Housing Authority Rental Program seeking a place to reside, but placed on the waiting list, you need to update your information.

Federal regulations mandate that the information you provided previously needs to be updated yearly, or for any:

- Change of employment
- Income
- Telephone/Address
- Members into the family

Please call Yolanda at the CPN Housing Authority 405.273.2833 to update this information.

Wadase update: February 2015

Snow and below freezing temperatures are still expected this time of year in Oklahoma, but spring is closer than the 20-degree morning today might suggest. In the hollow of the old pecan tree behind the aviary, you can just barely see the face of the Great Horned Owl. She has most likely laid 3-4 eggs and is now brooding them. Several of the eagle nests that we began monitoring in early December already show signs of activity and at more than half of those nests pairs of eagles are already present. Most nesting bald eagles in Oklahoma will have eggs in the nest in January. Some of our resident eagles have been nest building but so far no eggs have been laid.

Wadasé Zhabwé continues to visit the aviary from time to time and we are beginning to rely on her far more than the local weatherman’s forecast. We may go several days or a week without seeing her, but in the days prior to a significant winter storm she arrives a day ahead of the weather. One recent week, the forecast indicated ice and the possibility of snow along with extreme temperatures on a day we planned to travel to several nest sites in the northeastern portion of the state. We were concerned that travel might become an issue. However, we decided since we had not seen Wadasé, the weatherman was off just a bit in his forecast. Although we did have the cold temperatures, there was no precipitation. Wadasé was right.

Checking her telemetry we noticed once again that she



Wadase does not appear happy about the local photographic attention.

has followed adult eagles to local areas near nest sites. The dates for the previous year’s visit are within a week of her trip there this year. Curiously, she follows them as they migrate to their nest sites. She has visited nests in Maud and in Spencer.

She has led us to more than half of the Bald Eagle nest sites we currently monitor today. On our own trips to monitor those nest sites, we wanted to check out some of the other sites that she has frequented along the way. Arriving at Horseshoe Lake, an OG&E hydroelectric power plant, near Harrah we noticed a large eagle nest with an adult perched beside the nest.

Telemetry data shows that she has frequented the area several times near the lake and the river around this nest. The lake is private and closed to the public but there were hundreds if not thousands of ducks and coots visible in the water and protected pastures that surrounds the lake. Even if the lake was not stocked for fishing there is no shortage of food. It was easy to see why she was spending time there.

Continuing on to check the nest in Spencer, we spotted three eagles flying together near the river. The glare of the evening sun made any identification difficult. We stopped in the middle of the road to get a better look with binoculars and could clearly see two adults but had lost sight of the third.

Turning around to follow in the direction they were flying, we again spotted the third eagle, which had altered its course and separated from the adults. A sub-adult, who for a moment, seemed to respond when we vocalized, continued down the channel of the river and was quickly out of sight. At that distance we could not make out any telemetry on the bird. Could it have been Wadasé? We were almost positive but we would have to wait three days to confirm the sighting when we downloaded her telemetry. We of course marked the map with time and date and waited.

Three days always seems like weeks when waiting on her telemetry. When the time came to load the GPS data into the map we were ecstatic to learn we had in fact seen her. Perhaps that slight deviation from her path on the river and the turn towards us was

a nod of recognition.

We hope she is able to learn from the adults that she follows to nest sites, as they have been successful in fledging young. These eagles have chosen nest sites that are in somewhat remote areas that are hard for people to access directly and have abundant sources of food to support adults and growing chicks. We hope that the GPS backpack stays on long enough to know where Wadase chooses to nest. As we approach the two-year mark of her release, we continue to receive consistent telemetry data from her backpack and hope to have at least two more winters’ worth of data.

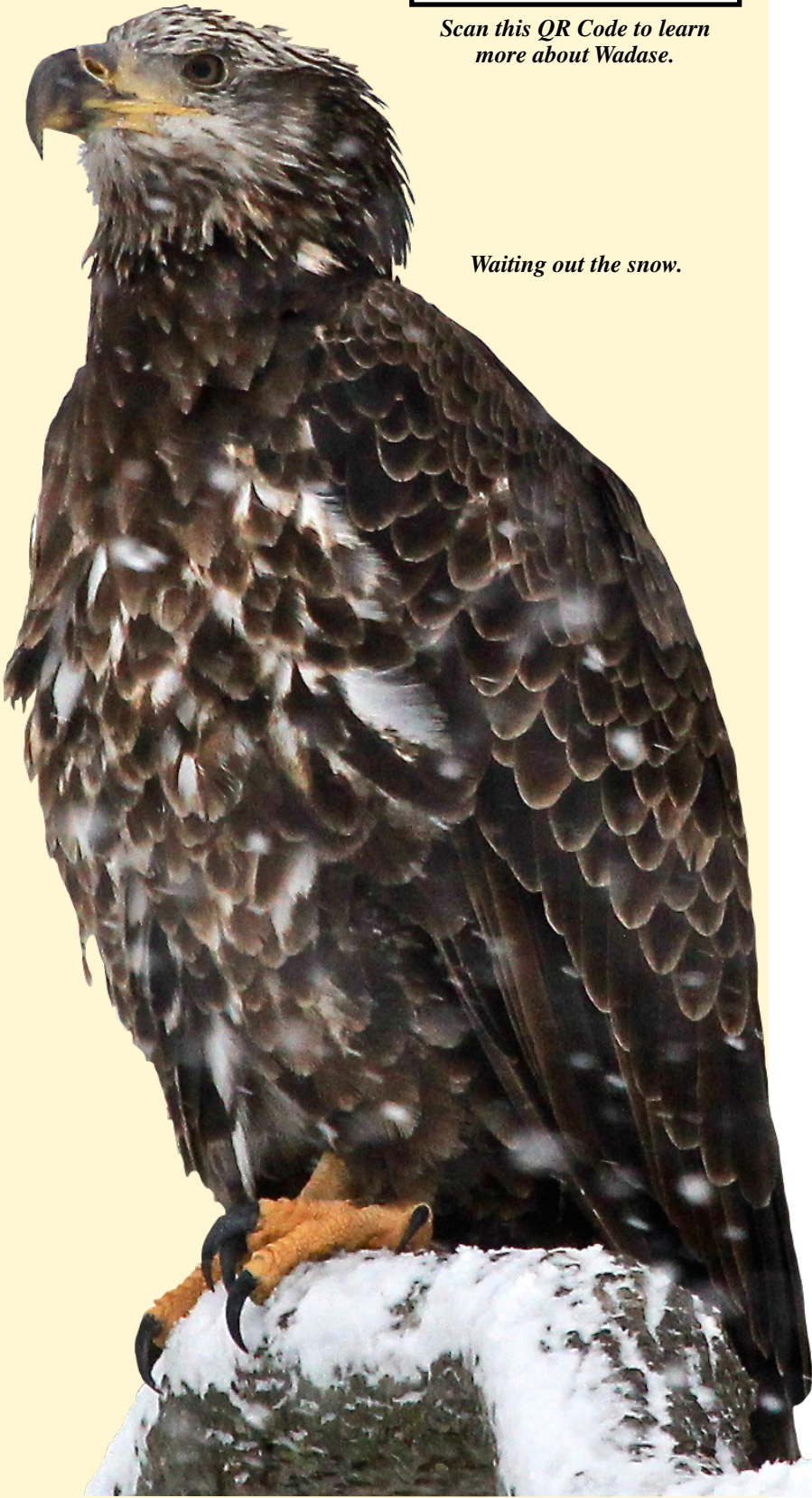
To follow her movements with us you can visit www.arcgis.com/home and search for “Potawatomi

eagle.” Send your encounters with Wadase or any other eagles in the state or wherever you may be to Jennifer.randell@potawatomi.org.

For more information or to read previous updates please visit <http://www.potawatomi.org> and search the site for Wadase or visit <http://www.potawatomi.org/about-wadase>.



Scan this QR Code to learn more about Wadase.



Waiting out the snow.



Making a pass at her food platform in the snow storm.

FireLodge Tribal Youth and P.L.A.C.E. keeping pace as 2015 rolls along

By Darin Greene, CPN Tribal Youth Coordinator

With the start of the New Year, the P.L.A.C.E. was jumping with excitement. Youth began putting together their Seabots with the help of members from the S.T.E.M. programs at Shawnee High School and Gordon Cooper Technology Center.

We also unveiled another project of ours, a tribal youth news station, P.L.A.C.E. News.

Our staff of two co-anchors, a weatherman, a sportscaster, field reporter and cinematographer are all members of the P.L.A.C.E.

We also got into the Elvis Presley spirit by celebrating the king’s birthday and listening to some of his greatest hits. The youth and

staff also ate some of his favorite foods, because what is celebrating Elvis about if not enjoying some good food?

Elvis was the focus of one of our arts and crafts projects too, with students making a collage of him during his career. Youth also made collages in celebration of Martin Luther King Day before taking on January’s final art project, All About Me candles.

A big hit was our Wacky Olympic competition where youth competed in the shot put, 50-yard dash and 4x20 relay all while throwing or carrying ping pong balls.

On the cultural side, one of the new instructional portions of the P.L.A.C.E. has been an emphasis on teaching the Potawatomi



Tribal youth participants Abby Richardson and Lacey Howell.

Language. This is an incredibly important part of fostering a sense of community for our Native youth, and while progress is always tough, the students seem to be enjoying the lessons.

Our cooking classes have also

begun, where the youth learn to prepare meals from scratch to serving. We’ve already made meat loaf in week one, chicken and rice in week two, fried chicken with macaroni and cheese and collard greens in week three before finishing up the final week’s class

with taco soup.

Always in need of some film appreciation, kids watched films like “Dawn of Planet of the Apes”, “Godzilla” and “Earth to Echo”. While all of this is important, the core of our daily routines each day centers on our tutoring program, which continues to progress.

The month was topped off with a trip to see the Oklahoma City Thunder play the NBA’s best team, the Golden State Warriors. With the Thunder winning 127-115, it was definitely worth the drive to Oklahoma City.

If you have a tribal youth that would be interested in our FireLodge Tribal Youth or P.L.A.C.E. programs, please call us at 405-214-5110 or email me at dgreene@potawatomi.org.



GOVERNMENT

Mkogisos / February 2015

People of the Fire

Tribal elections set for June 27, 2015



District 10's David Joe Barrett.



District 11's Lisa Kraft.



District 13 incumbent Bobbi Bowden.



District 13 challenger Samuel Navarre.

Tribal election season is underway again as Citizen Potawatomi Nation voters get set to elect candidates for three legislative seats, all based in Oklahoma. Also on the ballot this year is the annual tribal budget, which can be voted on by all eligible CPN voters nationwide. Only CPN members who are 18 or older as of Election Day will be eligible to vote.

All eligible CPN voters living

in Oklahoma can vote for each individual candidate in legislative seats 10, 11 and 13.

Legislative seats in districts 10, 11 and 13 are all on the ballot on June 27, Election Day, which will take place at the Family Reunion Festival in Shawnee, Okla.

In District 10, incumbent David Joe Barrett will retain his seat due to no challengers filing to run

against the Bethel Acres, Okla. native. Barrett is a member of the CPN Veterans Organization and a former member of the CPN Grievance Committee prior to the Tribal constitutional change.

Lisa Kraft, representing District 11, is another incumbent who will retain her legislative seat unopposed. Kraft said in her December 2014 *Hownikan* column that she would focus

on issues related to Tribal self-governance, development of tribal lands and expansion of health coverage.

This year's only competitive race comes in District 13. Incumbent Bobbi Bowden of Choctaw, Okla. has drawn a challenge from Samuel Navarre. Interviews and articles with the candidates for District 13 as well as profiles of legislators Kraft and Barrett will

follow in the coming months election coverage.

Get the *Hownikan* via email!

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Mentorship Program presents Native culture to youth

Pottawatomie County, Okla. is home to four Native American tribes and thousands of federally registered tribal members. As a result of nearly three centuries worth of assimilation and attempts to destroy Native American cultural practices, based on a principle of "kill the Indian, save the man," many young tribal members grow up not knowing or understanding their culture.

Cultural Activities Coordinator Michael Logan and Senior Cultural Mentor Coby Lehman have spent the past two years developing CPN's Cultural Mentorship Program. Initially begun as a two year grant that would provide mentorship to at-risk native youth in remote areas

specific tribe's culture.

"We found that a lot of our work was in teaching kids about their cultures as Native Americans, something they just didn't know a lot about."

Lehman had previously served in the CPN Language Department as an instructor, while Logan had been a staff member at FireLodge Tribal Youth Council and P.L.A.C.E. program.

The approximately 20 youth who participate must be members of a federally recognized tribe, but do not have to be Potawatomi. This diversity reflects the experiences of many Oklahoma-based Native Americans in communities like

order to best instruct them on that tribal culture. With approximately 15 tribes represented in the cultural mentorship program, there are instances where a specific nation's custom may not be familiar to what the student had been taught previously.

According to Lehman, "With every tribe having its own customs, we try to take what little bit we know to shape our instruction. We're still learning ourselves as adults. Specifically, we explain something that is important to remember when it comes to cultural teachings, in that we don't claim to be perfect, but are just teaching the way we were taught."

Given that the program is run through the Citizen Potawatomi Nation though, much of the initial instruction centers on Potawatomi traditions. Classes are five days a week from 3:30-6 p.m. after students from districts in Tecumseh, Shawnee and Bethel end their school day. The program recently concluded a month-long lesson on the stomp dance, which is practiced by southeastern tribes like the Seminole and Mvskoke Creek.

The program's goal, to provide cultural instruction, is not an easy one.

"Michael and I grew up around these cultural aspects, like going to powwows and learning the languages of our tribes," explained Lehman. "One of our main challenges is trying to keep them engaged in terms of showing them that learning things like the language are as important as learning to dance."

Logan elaborated on the challenges that those in the program sometime face.

"The biggest struggle is that

CULTURAL MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

FREE!

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AGES 12-18

MONDAY-FRIDAY 4:00-6:30 PM.

CONTACT MICHAEL LOGAN
405-878-5830 or michael.logan@potawatomi.org

everyone wants to be Indian, but no one wants to do what it takes," said Logan. "There is this culture of thinking that if you dress a certain way and talk a certain way, that's what makes you Indian. Those things aren't indigenous though."

Both Lehman and Logan echo the sentiment of instructors attempting to teach youth raised in an age of smart phones and high-speed broadband.

"These things that are important, like learning to dance or a language, but they take time. Sometimes that's hard for them to understand," said Logan.

These challenges aside, the cultural mentorship program has made strides. Students have participated in Native American festivals and celebrations,

including a dance demonstration this fall at Rose State College in Midwest City, Okla.

Though much of the program's focus is on teaching and instruction, the work of Lehman and Logan is more akin to historians or archaeologists working to preserve historical artifacts.

Said Logan, "If this isn't taught to the next generation, this is all going to get lost."

The program is always accepting new participants, with both Logan and Lehman happy to speak with anyone who may be interested in joining. If you would like to learn more about the Citizen Potawatomi Nation's Cultural Mentorship Program, please email michael.logan@potawatomi.org or coby.lehman@potawatomi.org.



Michael Logan and Coby Lehman.

like tribal reservations in places like the Dakotas, New Mexico and Montana, Lehman and Logan have molded the CPN program to match Pottawatomie County's specific issues.

"The more we got involved with developing the program, it turned out to encompass more than at-risk kids," explained Lehman.

CPN's cultural mentorship program has evolved into an important educational tool for Pottawatomie County students seeking to learn more about their

Shawnee and Tecumseh, where tribal members from many nations have lived amongst one another for generations. While each tribe has its own distinct history, customs and practices, in many occasions individuals with parents from two different tribes learn cultural aspects of each.

Logan, who is Choctaw and Cherokee, and Lehman, who is Potawatomi and Seminole, have experienced this themselves. As teachers, the two research and reach out to the tribes which each individual student belongs to in

CPCDC’s Logsdon elected to national board for Native American lenders

In October 2014, Citizen Potawatomi Community Development Corporation Director Shane Jett was elected to the board of directors of the Opportunity Finance Network. Jett’s ascension to the highly regarded national lending organization was recently followed by Cindy Logsdon, who was elected as the new treasurer on the board of directors for the Native CDFI Network.

CDFIs, or community development financial institutions, are specialized funding institutions who work to develop financing opportunities in sectors and markets typically underserved by lenders like traditional banks. Certified CDFIs are funded in part from federal dollars under the U.S. Treasury Department, and their presence has increasingly become an alternative form of funding for projects in Indian country.

The Native CDFI Network is an elected board of seasoned community and economic development professionals. The nine person committee advocates for more than 75 Native American CDFIs across the U.S. The group organizes policies, researches



Cindy Logsdon.

funding opportunities and builds a strong membership network and infrastructure within the Native CDFI Network. “We team up and tackle industry

issues and identify what each CDFI needs to continue to be successful in order to advocate for the industry,” explained Logsdon. Logsdon, a Shawnee-native,

graduated from Bethel High School. Her husband Billy is a CPN-member and an Anderson family descendant. As assistant director for the CPCDC, she works with funding institutions whose capital is used to finance the CPCDC’s commercial loans. She also oversees programs within the CPCDC such as financial education and the corporate loan program and oversees the Corporations finances.

“Since I started in 2004 I’ve seen many changes and growth here,” said Logsdon. “We do a lot of stuff outside the box. That’s what’s great about working here. You get to think outside the box and make something happen for someone. We work one-on-one with our clients and our main job is to get funds into the hands of Native American entrepreneurs.”

The CPCDC is one of a thousand community development financial institutions in the nation. What makes the program a certified Native CDFI Network member is that the majority of its clients are Native American.

“It’s important for the CPCDC to be involved with the Native CDFI

Network,” explained Logsdon. “Being elected as a member of the board of directors, this is a way for the CPCDC’s voice to be heard. It is an opportunity for the CPCDC and other Native CDFIs to be heard on the national level for continued funding, policy work and industry growth.”

“Its great honor to be an elected director for the Native CDFI Network,” said Logsdon. “The Tribe’s support for the CPCDC has made it what it is today. I’m just thankful to be a part of it all.”

Established in 2003, the CPCDC provides financial products and business training services to CPN members and employees as well as Native American-owned businesses statewide. To date the CPCDC has deployed over \$36 million in loans and grown to over \$17 million in total assets. A friend to small Native-owned businesses in Oklahoma and beyond, CPCDC’s goal is to support each client at all stages of development. For more information visit www.cpcdc.org or call (405) 878-4697.

CPCDC Feature: Carl Bright iBall Instruments, LLC - In the footsteps of Thomas Alva Edison

By Jessica Tucker, Commercial Loan Document Specialist

For decades, workers in the energy industry have been exploring and detecting gas while drilling through the use of devices called hotwires. However, the tried and true use of hotwires was also a hindrance in a sector where technological advances have opened up new possibilities for energy exploitation. That need for a technological advance was just what was needed by a client of Citizen Potawatomi Nation member Carl Bright. One of Bright’s customers, a mud logger looking to expand his drilling and detection capabilities, asked Bright if he could invent a tool that would improve or even replace the traditional hotwire. The result of that request was Bright’s company, iBall Instruments LLC, development of the infrared Bloodhound detection system.

Bright and iBall Instruments LLC co-founder Myron Butler were coworkers at a previous employer when both were informed they would lose their jobs. The company was shuttering its operations, leaving the two men facing an uncertain future. Butler, still the avid salesman at the age of 68, proposed that he and Bright, an inventor, go into businesses for themselves.

Bright agreed, saying they were both good at what they did, and calling Butler an “excellent salesman who could bring anyone in with his pitch.”

Their journey began in December 2005 when a mud logger asked Bright and Butler to visit him. He asked the pair to fix his gas detector, also known as a hotwire, which worked poorly when it worked at all.

Their client explained that his previous hotwires would get white hot while in use and eventually burn up. Geologists, paid by the mud logger to analyze the gases that burnt off through the hotwire, would remain on the clock even if the equipment was not working.



iBall Instruments-Carl Bright.

While examining the detector, Bright nearly crumpled it in his hand, and promised the pair’s first client that he would try to develop a tool that would meet the request for something that was cost efficient and reliable. Months of painstaking work, tests and trials finally paid off for Bright, and he presented his own gas detector to what would become the pair’s first client.

Bright’s remedy was the Bloodhound system, which

through the use of infrared light detects gases in a more cost effective manner and is considerably less time consuming. Geologists are no longer needed at the well site to oversee the process, saving money in payroll for drillers like Bright’s client. If

Things started to pick up in 2007 when the pair visited Mike Berglund of Horizon Well Logging. After a brief demonstration by Bright of what their product could do, Butler closed a deal leasing Horizon 20 rental systems.

“If it wasn’t for the Citizen Potawatomi Community Development Corporation, I wouldn’t be here today,” said Bright.

The pair’s business wasn’t impacted by the economic downturn 2008-09. In fact, according to Bright, iBall actually experienced a small increase in sales. So far 2013 and 2014 have been the best years for the business. The final months of 2014 have seen increased sales despite the recent fall in oil prices.

Bright purchased the business from his retiring partner Butler in 2013 through financing available from First National Bank and the Citizen Potawatomi Community Development Corporation.

Bright is not just an inventor, he is also a family man and someone who truly wants to help others.

“At the end of the day, I have a passion for helping people. It comes easy to me, but I enjoy it very much,” said Bright.

That helping spirit, along with a reliable product, has benefitted the firm as well as the American energy sector. Today, iBall products serve as much as 30 percent of the United States oil exploration market. Its success is yet another positive example that organizations like the Citizen Potawatomi Community Development Corporation can provide to small businesses.

If you are a Native American business owner in Oklahoma or a Citizen Potawatomi Nation Tribal member in the United States interested in a business loan like the one which assisted iBall Instruments, please call at 405-878-4697 or visit www.cpcdc.org.

As the firm grew, iBall’s small number of available prototypes left the firm facing a shortfall in funding to continue its growth. Butler and Bright approached Citizen Potawatomi Community Development Corporation with their business plan in hopes of securing some financial and planning assistance. The CPCDC conducted a two day review of iBall’s business plan and financial situation, evaluating the firm’s goals in the coming years.

By mid-2006, Butler and Bright had two working prototypes used by five rental customers. The following December, iBall was incorporated as an official business.

Children's development the focus for CDC's Williams

While parents head to the office and job site, the Citizen Potawatomi Nation Child Development Center is a hub for their children's important day-to-day activities like learning, playing, eating, sleeping, and singing. Though perhaps not as complicated as mom's end of year report or dad's completion of the cement pour at construction site, each student at the CDC learns a state certified curriculum which prepare them for the next steps in their education at the pre-k or kindergarten levels.

Director Christie Williams, who oversees the curriculum, evaluations and other tasks at the CDC, sat down with the Hownikan to discuss her history with the school.

How long have you worked at CPN and the child development center?

"I've been employed at CPN for more than 17 years. I actually began my career at the child development center. I worked as a master teacher for after school, toddlers, the two year old class,

then to the CCDF licensing manager before taking on my current position as assistant director."

How has the child development center grown?

"It started out on Father Murphy Drive and we were only licensed for 45 to 50 kids. Now we have approximately 328 children and are one of the largest centers in the state of Oklahoma."

What separates our child development center from a daycare?

"Our child development center teaches state certified curriculum. We use a high reach learning program that starts from infants and goes all the way up to five years of age. We keep developmental charts and evaluations on every child."

What are some old or new programs that you are most proud of?

"Last year we added a music and movement program. This year we have started an enrichment

program. It's for the children that may not have grasped what they needed to move ahead to the next class. They might need a little help in an area and this gives them one-on-one with a teacher. We also started a speech program and do physical education every other day. Of course teaching them the Potawatomi language is neat, especially when we have a parent tell us they've enrolled in the language classes themselves so they can understand what their child is saying."

Do you have something special about the child development center that you would like to share?

"We will be open 18 years in July. To see staff members like Kris and Sean Moucka come back and work in the program they grew up in is pretty neat. Also, a couple of students I used to have are now parents and they bring their kids here. It makes me feel like maybe we left such a good impression or provided something they remember and want the same for their kids. That's what makes it something special."



Christie Williams.

Accounting and economic development departments receive foreign-trade zone training

Though outsourcing has been of increasing concern for more than a decade in the U.S., the phenomenon is not a new one. In the dark days of the Great Depression, the federal government pursued almost any means necessary to put the country's workforce back into the factories and offices of the United States. In order to combat the ill-fated 1930 Smoot-Hawley Tariffs, Congress created and passed the Foreign-Trade Zone Act. By designating specific geographic areas in or adjacent to Customs Ports of Entry, the act sought to expedite and encourage foreign commerce in the United States.

Foreign-trade zones were designed to alleviate the duty and import burdens on American businesses, thereby promoting jobs and investment at home. In the Tribal jurisdiction this will become increasingly important, as the Iron Horse Industrial Park will eventually serve as a magnet site for the foreign trade zone under the Port of Oklahoma City's Foreign-Trade Zone 106.

CPN recently sent three representatives who will be working in this unique zone to a training held by the National Association of Foreign Trade Zones. Chief Financial Officer Susan Blair, Assistant Director of Financing Becky Cragin and Assistant Director of Economic Development Kelley Francen travelled to Austin for the training session.



Susan Blair, Kelley Francen and Becky Cragin.

"With the development of Iron Horse Industrial Park, CPN will eventually become a designated foreign-trade zone," said Francen. "The designation status will bring great tax and tariff benefits, it also enhances competitiveness of global companies looking to locate at Iron Horse."

The port authority of OKC approved the application request designating Iron Horse as a FTZ magnet site in February 2014. As the grantee, CPN will be responsible for oversight of the FTZ and ensure the industrial park's tenants adhere to U.S. Customs regulations.

"When Iron Horse becomes a foreign trade zone CPN's accounting department will not be impacted significantly while the Nation remains the grantee," explained CFO Blair. "We would have a yearly report to the Foreign Trade Zone Board but that would probably be prepared by the director and not accounting."

Blair provided insight of the designation's advantage to companies wanting to do business at Iron Horse, citing an example of a car manufacturer working out of a foreign trade zone.

"An automobile manufacturer

could import a part that has 12 percent tax rate, but when it is incorporated into a car, the manufacturer could choose to use the tax rate for a vehicle, which is set at only two percent.

"Likewise, if a part came in at a low tax rate but was used in a product that had a higher tax, the business could choose to keep the rate charged on the part and pay the higher rate on the remainder of the product."

Advantages like these are vital to attracting businesses that hire local workers. Saving money on import and export duties, or

bypassing them all together if the final product will never be sold in the U.S., means businesses can spend on hiring workers.

"Today there are more than 3,000 companies operating in U.S. foreign trade zones," explained Francen. "They are responsible for \$80 billion in exports in 2013 alone. More importantly, they employ more than 390,000 U.S. residents, a number we look forward to contributing to once Iron Horse is up and running."

The Citizen Potawatomi Nation's Iron Horse Industrial Park is a general-use industrial park located on the national rail line network in the center of the United States. This industrial park consists of a 400-acre plot of Native American trust land owned by the Citizen Potawatomi Nation located 35 minutes southeast of Oklahoma City. Iron Horse provides tenants with direct access to both rail and the U.S. highway system. The industrial park is less than 10 miles from Interstate 40 and within two miles of U.S. 177 and provides immediate connections to the Union Pacific and AOK railroads.

If you would like to learn more about Iron Horse, please contact the Citizen Potawatomi Nation Office of Economic Development at 405-275-3121 or by visiting www.ironhorsecpn.com

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Chairman – John Barrett



Bozho Nikan (Hello my friend),

Well, it’s February. I hope all of you are able to look past these cold winter months into the warm months ahead. For some reason, February always seems to feel colder, maybe because we are getting more tired of winter. The Potawatomi language name for February is *Mko Gisos*, which means “little bear.”

It was said that February was the time of year when a hibernating mother bear would have exhausted her stored body fat from nursing and had to bring the new bear cubs out of the den for the first time while she hunted for food. Since mother bears are very protective of their cubs, the name for the month was probably a cautionary reminder for people to be on the lookout for potential danger while in the woods. So keep a sharp eye when you are out and about.

Try to come back home to Tribal headquarters this year to see the exciting new changes at CPN. We have new restaurants opening, plus many new additions to our entertainment and tourism offerings. Our unmatched growth is the true economic engine of Pottawatomie County, no pun intended.

The continued antagonism from Shawnee City government has not abated, however. They are still at it. The City of Shawnee still claims we are part of the city. In order to disprove that, we filed for detachment last September under a city ordinance, which also grants us a public hearing on the issue.

Unbelievably, the city denied we had a right to ask for detachment of our Tribal lands, saying we didn’t own them – a blatant abuse

of the law. When we produced a letter from the Bureau of Indian Affairs affirming CPN is the owner of our Tribal trust land, the city attorney insinuated that the letter was a forgery. Not only abusive treatment, but an insult.

We persisted, however, and finally had to file a lawsuit in Oklahoma District Court. We received a ruling from the judge that the city commission had to finally give in and grant us a hearing.

In late-January, CPN finally received its “fair” hearing as it is described in the City Detachment Ordinance. It was far from fair. More than a dozen Shawnee citizens, Tribal employees and Tribal members spoke in support of our detachment from Shawnee. Each speaker provided ample evidence of the municipal government’s lack of investment and failure to provide municipal services in the Tribal jurisdiction.

For the city to claim our lands as part of their legal jurisdiction while they do not furnish our

water, sewer, police, street lights, traffic lights or roads is absurd. Though the points the speakers made before the city commission all varied, the key point expressed was that the city government had no valid claim on our lands.

The true motive behind all of their legal maneuvering was to exploit the CPN’s ability to develop and improve its own trust lands by claiming it was in the city. The additional motive was preventing our businesses from competing against some future business the city claimed Shawnee “might get.” They reasoned that gave them the right to force the Tribe to collect sales taxes for the city from tribal businesses.

Dr. Kelli Mosteller, head of our cultural heritage center and an expert in Potawatomi history, presented her findings to the commission about their claim that the Tribe is in the city. It stems from an illegal 1961 “annexation.” She explained that she found the 1961 city commission did not adhere to open meetings laws and

essentially held their annexation hearing in secret so as not to inform the true land owners, CPN and the federal government, of the properties’ seizure.

More so, Dr. Mosteller pointed out that while the current city government contended their records showed the original annexation was legal, they refuse to show proof. The response was so very typical of the anti-tribe majority of this city commission. Vice-Mayor James Harrod replied that Oklahoma “didn’t have open meeting’s laws back then.”

The city *did* in fact, and I’ve provided a copy of the 1961 statutes with my column here. The vice-mayor then went on to say, “In 1961, if they did exist, no one paid any attention to them.”

By the end of the night, after being harried by Mayor Wes Mainord, more than a dozen individuals spoke for the detachment. In fact, despite the mayor’s arbitrary imposition of a timeline on speakers, more still wanted to

speak for the Tribe but were not afforded an opportunity to do so. The stunner came when *not one single person* spoke against the petition.

Commissioner Gary Vogel, who personally told me he would vote for detachment when the Tribe supported his candidacy in June 2014, didn’t show up to the meeting. This was in keeping with his usual tactic of abstaining when it comes to votes that could favor the Tribe, creating a 3 to 3 tie that causes any motion to fail for lack of a majority. This man lied to me and is not a person to trust.

The ensuing 3-3 tie meant that our petition failed, with Mayor Mainord, Vice-Mayor Harrod and Commissioner Keith Hall all voting against. I do want to thank commissioners Agee, Dykstra and Shaw for listening to the only people to show up that night and voting in favor of what is right.

The night’s result is unfortunately, Shawnee city governance as it always is. I encourage all of you to watch the meeting online at this address: <http://tinyurl.com/ShawneeCommission>. The public hearing portion begins at around 19 minutes into the meeting and goes almost until the end.

Though this battle went against us, the standing-room only turnout at our hearing proves we’re headed in the right direction. It is with that hopeful sentiment I ask you to keep in mind our situation when speaking with family, friends and coworkers as the situation develops. If you don’t like what you saw at the meeting, the mayor, vice-mayor and commissioners can be emailed here: <http://www.shawneeok.org/Gov/Commission/>.

Thank you, as always, for the opportunity to serve as Tribal Chairman and for your support and encouragement.

Migwetch.

John Rocky Barrett,
Keweoge (He leads them home)

605

CHANGING LIMITS

11 § 481

either the boundary or the name, or both the boundary and the name of any ward or wards in such city or town, the council, board of commissioners or trustees or other governing body, may by two-thirds (2/3) vote order and cause the same to be done; provided, however, that no such order of change shall be made until notice of such proposal to make such change, shall be given thirty (30) days prior thereto, by inserting at least one time such notice of such proposal in a newspaper published in such city or town, and provided further that if no newspaper be published in such city or town, then said notice shall be given by posting such notice in writing of such proposal, in ten (10) of the most public places in such city or town, one of which notices shall be at the front entrance of the building in which the usual meeting places of such council, board of commissioners or trustees or other governing body are held; the same to be done at least thirty (30) days before the order to make such change is made. Provided, however, that when a petition shall be presented to the mayor and council of any city or the board of trustees of any incorporated town, signed by fifty-five per cent of the qualified electors of the city or town, as shown by the preceding general election, praying for a change in the name, number or boundary of wards of said town or city, the mayor and council of the city or the board of trustees of the town shall, within ten days after the filing of such petition, change such wards to conform to the prayer of the petition, but no such change shall take effect except for election purposes until after the next regular election and until the installation of officers. Laws 1933, ch. 128, p. 274, § 1.

Municipal Corporations § 40.

Sec.

491. Cities and towns subject to inundation—extension of authority over new townsite.

492. Approval of plat—special election.

493. Approval of annexation—recording of resolution and plat.

494. Exclusion of territory.

§ 481. Authority to change city limits—Consent of owners—Certain tracts not subject to city taxes.—The city council, in its discretion, may add to the city such other territory adjacent to the city limits as it may deem proper, and shall have power to increase or diminish the city limits in such manner as in its judgment and discretion, may redound to the benefit of the city: Provided, that in no case shall any additional territory, except when subdivided into tracts or parcels of less than five acres with more than one residence thereon, be added to the city limits without the consent in writing of the owners of a majority of the whole number of acres owned by residents of the territory to be added, except that when three sides of such additional territory is adjacent to, or abutting on, property already within the city limits, such territory may be added to the city limits without the consent hereinbefore mentioned: Provided, Further, that where the territory sought to be added is separated from the city limits by an intervening strip less than four rods in width upon the land so detached by such strip shall be considered as adjacent or abutting within the meaning of this section; And Provided, Further, that tracts of land in excess of forty acres shall not be subject to city taxes. R.L. 1910, § 500.

Laws 1907-08, p. 178; C.S.1921, § 4463; St.1931, § 6180.

Vice-Chairman – Linda Capps



As I reflect on past memories of special Tribal members and events, I appreciate my tenure as vice-chairman more than ever before. I believe that age and maturity plays a big part in the gratefulness that I feel. Our Nation has accomplished great endeavors which have resulted in services and programs that touch the lives of many people. One of my all-time favorite programs is the Potawatomi Leadership Program.

Many of you are aware that the program began in 2003, and has been a source of pride to the Nation ever since that time.

I recently received an update on Travis Detherage, a former PLP student during the summer of 2008. He graduated from Seguin High School in Arlington, Texas in 2009, and then graduated in 2013 from the University of Texas at Arlington with a Bachelor’s Degree in Journalism.

Travis’ mother, Tracy Detherage, and I have stayed in touch by email from time-to-time. I was elated to receive the news that Travis has settled into a position as sports editor for the Palestine Herald-Press. The Palestine Herald-Press is published in Palestine, Texas, and was founded in 1849.

Sports editor is Travis’ title, however, he is actually the whole

sports department since it is a small town newspaper! He does the sports page layout for the printed newspaper, online reporting and tweets. Travis is in contact with area coaches, conducting interviews for his articles, and covers Palestine and other area high school games, including football, basketball, soccer, volleyball, etc.

I enclosed a picture of Travis and Chairman Barrett taken at festival many years ago. I also included a current picture of Travis who is now 24 years old, and working at a job that he loves. Travis, like many other of our young people, grew up attending festival and participating in Tribal events whenever possible. I like to hold on to the belief that the interaction with his cultural heritage and tribal family has helped him be a more productive young man.



Travis Detherage.



Travis Detherage and Tribal Chairman John "Rocky" Barrett.

I appreciate Tracy and Travis for staying in touch throughout the years. The content of this brief article serves as a good example of why I am proud to be your vice-chairman.

Migwetch,

Linda Capps
405-275-3121 office
lcapps@potawatomi.org

Did you know the *Hownikan* comes in a digital format?

The *Hownikan* offers subscribers the option of a print or digital copy of their newspaper. If you would like your newspaper via email, please email your name and address to hownikan@potawatomi.org and let us know.

LEGISLATORS ARE NOT ABLE TO RETRIEVE YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION FROM TRIBAL ROLLS. Please contact your legislator so that you can receive important information.

District 1 – Roy Slavin



Bozho nikanek,

2015 is a month old, but before you know it the summer time will be here and it will be time for Festival and the Gathering of Nations. If you would like to

see photos of the past two years’ events, links to them can be found at <http://www.potawatomi.org/culture>. It is never too soon to begin preparing regalia, and while your regalia should be specific to you, photos of how intricate some of our Potawatomi can be with their designs may spark some creativity in you. Just remember, it is improper to copy someone else’s specific designs, because what is important to them is not the same for you.

Fast approaching is the 2015 Tribal elections, which will feature legislators from Oklahoma’s districts 10, 11 and 13. While only Oklahoma residents can cast votes in that race, all CPN members can

and should vote on the annual tribal budget. We are a strong and successful Tribe because of our form of government. But that government is also strong because of citizen participation, which is where you, the voter, come in. I also want to announce a co-district meeting with District 4 legislator Jon Boursaw. We will hold this joint gathering on May 2, 2015 at The Loretto Native American Indian Center, 1111 W. 39th Street, Kansas City, Mo. We will start at 10 a.m. and go until 3 p.m.

The Loretto is a beautiful, interesting old building. In its previous life it was a Catholic girls’ school, but in recent years

has been completely refurbished. We will send invitations out in the mail in the months ahead of the meeting, so make sure your appropriate and updated information is correct with our Tribal Rolls office. They can be reached by calling (800) 880-9880 or emailing Tribal Rolls Director Charles Clark at CClark@Potawatomi.org.

One of District 1’s most notable Citizen Potawatomi, photographer Sharon Hoogstraten, has a show in the coming months. A district invitation to see it on March 21 is on page 5.

I will close this article as always with a plea for your contact

information. If you do not get email or regular mail from me occasionally it is because I do not have your contact information and due to privacy issues the Nation cannot provide me with it.

I have re-opened my office and my hours are 1-3 p.m. Tuesday 9-11 a.m. Thursday and any time by appointment.

I can be reached at R. Slavin 6730 Tower Drive, Kansas City, Mo. 64151 or by calling 816-741-8480 or toll free 1-888-741-5767, rsлавin@potawatomi.org.

Migwetch,
Netagtege (Roy)

District 2 – Eva Marie Carney



Bozho nikanek (Hello friends)!

Sixth annual District 2 contest: Telling stories to our family and friends keeps our Potawatomi traditions front and center and also is great fun. For our sixth annual District 2 contest, please send entries of your favorite Potawatomi-related stories. You can send me by mail or email a story passed down in your Potawatomi family or one you come up with yourself. These “rules” are broad so that you are free to send in good stories that you want to share with your

District 2 and broader CPN family. Please participate! Try to limit yourself to 300 words. Entries are welcome from outside District 2. I hope to print several of the entries in upcoming columns and even put together a small book of them if there are enough (and send all entrants a copy). I also will draw randomly for the contest prize – a 16" x 20" George Winter Ten Potawatomi Chiefs framed premium canvas print, mailed to your home, and pictured here. **The contest deadline is April 15, 2015.**

Visiting opportunities: There are three upcoming District 2 events planned for the winter and spring while a fourth remains to be firmed up. These are

- Our private tour of the **Archives of the National Museum of the American Indian, in Suitland, Maryland, Friday, February 13, 2015**, starting at 12:15 p.m. with soup, sandwiches and sweet potato pie (my treat) at Sweet Dee’s, 4210 Silver Hill Road (part

- of the Smithsonian Suitland campus). The archives tour will begin at 1:30 p.m., but space is highly limited so if you haven’t been told you are in, please accept my apologies.
- A District 2 meeting in **Little Rock, Arkansas, Saturday, March 21, 2015**, starting at 10:30 a.m. in the Parish Hall of the Trinity Episcopal Cathedral in Little Rock. Our location was arranged by District 2’s Dixie Quinn/*Mkebdemkokwe* (Black Bear Woman). Lunch will be served. Please be sure to RSVP and bring stories and items of your family history, photographs, etc. to share.
- A District 2 meeting in **South Florida (location TBD) on Saturday, April 25.**

- Another meeting in the **Atlanta area, most likely in May.**

I need help finding venues for the Florida and Atlanta meetings, so let me know if you are local and able to help. I’ve selected Arkansas, Florida and Georgia



for the meetings as these states are among the 13 states in District 2 with the largest Potawatomi populations, per our Tribal Rolls office.

With space so limited for the archives visit, please know that I will circulate photos of the traditional Potawatomi items used to hunt, cook, and play games and the exquisite examples of Potawatomi weaving, beadwork, leatherwork and quillwork that will be made available to the group.

Please don’t be put off by the distance between us; let’s connect. When planning meetings around our district I know that many of you will not have the opportunity to travel to them. If you have questions, comments, or ideas to share please do so through email, phone, or letter. Building our CPN community in District 2 continues to be my top priority.

Kindest regards and *bama pi* (until later),

Eva Marie Carney
Ojindiskwe (Bluebirdwoman)
Legislator, District #2
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Washington, DC 20001
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Toll Free: 866-961-6988
Website: evamariecarney.com

District 3 – Bob Whistler



Bozho Nikan (Hello friend)

In my December column, I mentioned some things about the Affordable Care Act and that as Native Americans we are exempt from having to buy regular insurance coverage if we have access to care from a Native American source. That could be our own health facility in Shawnee or possibly at the Dallas Urban Inter-tribal Center.

However, you must prove this if you are required to file a federal tax return and you do not have minimum essential coverage for yourself and everyone else in your tax household. If you want to report or claim a coverage exemption for yourself or another member of your tax household, you must file Form 8965 to report or claim coverage exemptions. Form 8965 must be completed and attached to your tax return (Form 1040, Form 1040A, or Form 1040EZ). This form and the instructions can be accessed by going to: www.irs.gov, and getting it from the forms area. Failure to file this form if you did qualify for an exemption exposes you to a financial penalty, since it is the required proof needed for the exemption.

I wish you a safe and healthy 2015. As we start this New Year, we need to be mindful of our history and culture, and be alert to

the things that are disappearing. At one time basket making was very important not only to the Anishinabe culture, but to many other nations for carrying and storing foods and water. For us the black ash basket currently being made primarily by the Pigeon family is in jeopardy due to the introduction and spread of an invasive Asian beetle, the Emerald Ash Borer. This beetle is going through the ash forests and destroying the trees and in time this industry will come to a close. For those of you who have the time, I recommend you consider going to the annual Gathering of our Nations next August which will be hosted by Forest County Potawatomi in Wisconsin. You will have the opportunity to not only see these baskets in the making, but possibly be able to make your own basket from scratch. You will need to sign up for a class in advance if you are

interested. As information on the Gathering becomes available, I will try to get that out in a future column.

For any of you who may be interested in other nation basket making, there is a very nice 95 page paperback written by Susan Brown McGreevy on Indian Basketry Artists of the Southwest. This book covers some current very well known Navajo, Apache and Hopi basket makers. This is available from Edward R. Hamilton Bookseller Company, PO Box 15, Falls Village, CT 06031-0015. The cost is \$3.95 for item 67C2-P, plus \$3.50 for postage and handling. This bookseller has several other inexpensive books (\$3.95 - \$5.95) dealing with Native American crafts or history including, bows, arrows, quivers, bark canoes, and time honored Native American truths.

In closing, I am here to serve you as your elected representative and I am honored that you chose to have me serve in this capacity. So please call or write if there is something that you feel needs my involvement.

Bama pi, (later)

Bob Whistler/*Bmashi* (He soars)
Citizen Potawatomi Nation
District 3 Office
112 Bedford Road, Suite 116
Bedford, TX 76022

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RWhistler@potawatomi.org
CPN3Legislator@yahoo.com

District 4 – Jon Boursaw



Upcoming District 4 meeting:

CPN District 4 Members living in the eastern part of Kansas and in the greater Kansas City area are invited to a District meeting on May 2, 2015 at The Loretto

located at 1111 West 39th St, Kansas City, Mo.

This will be a joint meeting with CPN members from District 1. The facilities at The Loretto, now the American Indian Center of the Great Plains, are perfect for a district meeting. Put this meeting on your calendar now, however invitations will be mailed in the near future. It is *very important* that you reply to the invitation if you plan to attend so we can have an accurate count for the luncheon. In addition to the normal CPN updates and discussions Roy Slavin, the District 1 Representative, and I would like to hear about your family histories. If you have old

family pictures that you would like to share, please bring them to the meeting. I will have more information about this meeting and The Loretto in the next *Hownikan*.

Naming ceremony:
I recently was asked to perform a naming ceremony for several members of the Boursaw/Ogee family. I gave Indian names to 24 of my relatives on Dec 21, 2014. All of those named are descendants of Clara (nee Boursaw) Ice, who was my grandfather’s (Louis L. Boursaw) sister.

Your contact information:
If you are not receiving emails or regular mail from me, I don’t

have your contact information in my file. Because of privacy issues CPN legislators do not have access to your information in the Tribal enrollment file, so we must develop our own files. This can only be done if you provide me with your information. All you need to do is send me a short note by mail or email to the addresses listed below. I will only use this information to contact you and I will not share it with any outside entity.

As I mentioned last month I had knee replacement surgery on January 12. Consequently the schedule for my office hours during January and February have been disrupted. As a result my availability in the District

office will be minimal. If you need assistance please do not hesitate to contact me as I will be available by phone and email. My goal is to be back playing golf by mid-April.
Migwetch,

Jon Boursaw, *Wetase Mkoh*

Office Hours: Please Call

CPN District 4 Legislative Representative

(O) 785-861-7272
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Topeka, KS 66604

jon.boursaw@potawatomi.org

LEGISLATIVE COLUMNS

District 6 – Gene Lambert



February is a time when we all think about Saint Valentine’s Day. This is the time to recognize not only our spouses, fiancés, committed relationships, and children, but also the love we share with those around us who make our lives better.

It reminds me of - and maybe some of you remember - a gathering we had back in 1999 or 2000. Tempe

Mission Palms hosted our meeting in February that year, and I decided to create center pieces for 13-14 tables. As you might or might not remember, we always had tickets to draw after each meeting to determine who won the right to take the center pieces home.

I was very creative that year and decided to honor Valentine’s Day at our Potawatomi gathering. We were always looking for a new theme. There was a Potawatomi man from Globe, Ariz. who had never been to a meeting and did not know there were other people of his clan here. It drew tears of excitement when he was able to meet and see people of his own for the first time. It was a great day for him.

The local newspaper reported on our meeting of 5,000 people, a number which was a surprise to most of the 160 who actually attended. I still have

not figured out where that number came from.

We were all sitting down at our tables as I greeted everyone and introduced our speakers. Chairman Barrett shared the tribal successes and forecasts for the future as we listened intently. The centerpieces on the table were made up of a large clear vase with red, heart-shaped glass at the bottom, gold fish, and a live plant at the top to oxygenate the fish.

“What great and unusual center pieces,” I thought. “No one has ever done this at any meetings I have ever attended.”

However, one minor detail changed the feeling of pride to embarrassment. When I sealed the top with Elmer’s glue, I did not anticipate the dripping of said glue into the water where the fish were swimming. One by one they turned over on their sides, floated to

the top and died – right there during lunch.

Originality turned to disaster in a matter of minutes. However, we still had the drawing and the vases - with and without fish – went home with the winners.

The following year, one Tribal member came to me and asked me excitedly, “Do you remember when I won the center piece from last year?”

“Yes, absolutely,” I said remembering how humiliating the moment had been.

“Well,” she said, “I have a gold fish that is almost a foot long now. He is so beautiful. Thank you. It is the first time I ever won anything, and I still have the fish. His name is Henry.”

Now, I have selective memories. Instead of remembering the 13 or 14

fish that gave their lives on the tabletop that afternoon, I can remember one very happy person with a large and healthy goldfish.

Moral to the story: We can never go back...but, if you must...remember the good things. You are in charge of creating your own memories.

Wishing you all a Happy Valentine’s Day!

Gene Lambert
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glambert@potawatomi.org
euniceilambert@gmail.com

District 7 – Mark Johnson



Bozho nikanek / Hello Friends,

The other day I was sitting in my office having a conversation about the diversity of our Tribe and the person I was having the conversation with commented that it was nice not to have a tribe like some of the ones we have here in California. It struck me as kind of funny, but then I thought, “Well why would we?”

We come from very diverse backgrounds and our experience in America is quite different than the tribes in California.

I like to think that the experience that our elders endured over the last 200 years has made our Tribe what it is

today. The diversity within CPN is well reflected in our tribal legislature, where we have conservatives and liberals and youth and elders. The one characteristic that we all share on the legislature is the ability to come to a consensus on moving our great Nation forward after a debate behind closed doors. Therein lies the greatest strength of our Tribe, the ability to listen to all voices and then making a decision that will benefit all. Whether they chose to recognize it or not is a different matter.

Yes, it is great to be part of a government that works!

One thing that is a constant in any kind of government is that

all members will never be totally happy with decisions that those in government make. There is a small minority in our Tribe who are short sighted and believe we should only exist to promote traditional ideals. I believe that maintaining and reviving those traditions is one of the most important things we can do as a Tribe, I also know that in order to do those things, we must be in a strong economic position as a Nation to fend off those who would seek to destroy what we have built. One must only look back at our Tribe’s history to know that we cannot allow history to repeat itself or to become one of those California tribes.

Once again I would like to say what

an honor and privilege it is to serve you as your District 7 representative. As always give me a call and I will be happy to work with you on any questions you may have, or provide you with additional information you may need to access tribal benefits that you are entitled to.

Migwetch / Thank You,
Mark Johnson / *Wisk Mtek*
(Strong as a Tree)
Representative, District 7
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Mark.Johnson@potawatomi.org

District 10 – David Barrett



Bozho,

Starting a New Year brings memories and experiences from the past that will carry over to 2015. My service with the Nation has inspired me to become even more involved with CPN’s business aside from just being a member of the Bourassa family and your District 10 legislator. There is a pride that comes with

the involvement with my fellow legislators and the members of the executive branch.

Most of all it is an honor and privilege to be in this position to attend some of the different functions of the Nation, like when I have been able to congratulate different local youth programs that CPN supports. The large undertaking of the annual Family Reunion Festival each year, which involves so many dedicated members and employees, always comes off as a great success and makes it a “must” to attend.

Travelling to the annual Gathering of Nations, bringing all nine Potawatomi tribes together, provides a sense of inclusion in the large picture of our beginning as a Potawatomi people.

As a Vietnam veteran, serving as

a member of our Nation’s Color Guard by bringing our flags to the arena and at other parades and functions. When one of our Potawatomi veterans passes, I am privileged to serve as an honor guard member during their funeral.

The greatest highlight remains the opportunity of just visiting with any and all Potawatomi members and their families, as well as the many others who work and deal with the Citizen Potawatomi Nation.

Some of my personal accomplishments include having the honor of conducting a naming ceremony for one of our WWII fighter pilots along with my brother who is a Vietnam Purple Heart recipient. I am equally proud of my service working with our qualified legislative

body, voicing my concerns with our executive branch’s wisdom with the Nation’s interest my first concern closely followed by our membership and finally my own personal interests.

The knowledge that has been acquired is insurmountable. Coupling this knowledge with my professional business background and work with people in that field has made my experience serving the Nation too valuable for words to express.

I have served our Nation for 12 years, starting as a board member of First National Bank and Trust Co., then as a member of the old Tribal Grievance Committee. Since 2008, I have been your District 10 legislator. I look forward to continuing this tremendous adventure in 2015 and beyond.

The Nation is a very complex organization which challenges me each day to seek answers to other tribal members' questions, as well as my own.

It goes without saying that it is an honor to serve you and our great Nation.

Migwetch
David Barrett/*Mnedobe*
(Sits with the Spirit)

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Shawnee, Ok 74801

405-275-3121
DBarrett@potawatomi.org

District 13 – Bobbi Bowden



Bozho Nikan,

Hello friends! It’s getting closer and closer to the point where you, the people of our great Nation, decide who will serve you in these upcoming four years. Sadly the majority of the Tribal members won’t actually vote. Luckily, people can vote without even leaving their own home by absentee ballot. The absentee

ballot is a great way to get more people involved in the voting process. The way the absentee ballot works is this; first, the Tribal election committee mails out small pamphlets to eligible voting members that must be filled out to request the actual voting pamphlet. That pamphlet is also mailed to you, so it will be a good idea to look out for the mail arriving from the election committee!

If you have any questions, or you do not receive the request form, you are more than welcome to contact the election committee at (405) 275-3121 or 1-800-880-9880. You can also email them at elections@potawatomi.org. It is very important to vote! If I am elected to serve another term I promise to do my best to get answers to any of your questions

and pass on as much information as I possibly can. We are truly blessed with some great benefits and incredible traditions. I look forward to continuing to learn together.

Migwetch,

Bobbi Bowden / *Peshknokwe*

District 13 Representative

Bbowden@potawatomi.org





Dustin Tyler Howell

Dustin Tyler Howell, 34, of Gladstone, died unexpectedly on October 17, 2014. Dustin was born in Overland Park, Kan. He was a 1999 graduate of Raytown High School and earned an associate's degree in business from Maple Woods College. He had attended the Bloch School of Business at UMKC, and North American University.

He was a very kind and gentle soul and had many varied interests. He was preceded in death by his father Joel Seth Howell. Survivors include: his mother and step-father, Sandra and Kenny Sutton; four half-brothers, Scott, Joel, Richard and Mike; his grandmother, Ruth Spalding, and many other relatives and friends who will miss him very dearly.

Mass of Christian burial was October 25, 2014, at St. Andrew's Catholic Church in Gladstone, Mo.

Fond memories and condolences for the family may be left at www.dwnwhitechapel.com. Arrangements by D.W. Newcomer's Sons White Chapel Funeral Home, 6600 N. Antioch Rd., Gladstone, MO 64119, 816-452-8419.



Ruth Odelia Dickman

Longtime Manteca resident Ruth Odelia Dickman died peacefully on Nov 24, 2014, at age 87. Ruth passed away from natural causes with family at her side. She was born on May 25, 1927, in Konawa, Okla., the youngest of five children, and a proud member of the Potawatomi Indian Nation. Ruth was the youngest of Peter Rhodd's family of five children. She is survived by sister Mary Beth of Phoenix, Ariz.

Ruth grew up in the countryside outside of Konawa on a small farm. Trips to Shawnee in Ruth's youth were a much looked forward to event highlighted by a visit to the movie theatre where Ruth fell in love with the Western serials that were playing on the big screen. Ruth's mother, Wendolina Rhodd grew a 15 acre garden that fed the family and many neighbors year round. Wendolina always shared with those in need and this carried over to Ruth for her entire life. Ruth moved to Manteca, Calif. in her early teens when the home outside of Konawa burned to the ground.

Ruth met the love of her life, Frank K."Bud" Dickman, while working as an administrative assistant at Dr. Robert Winter's office. They were married for 59 years. Together, they devoted themselves to

building a home, raising six children and contributing to the Manteca community. As a full-time housewife and mother, Ruth never took a day off. She worked tirelessly at the everyday challenges of nurturing four boys and two girls, and their endless parade of friends and activities.

Many will remember Ruth as a crossing guard at Lincoln Elementary, or as a playground attendant at St. Anthony's and Lindbergh School. Others will remember her driving the boy's basketball team from St. Anthony's to games throughout the dioceses or hauling the Manteca High Song Leaders to football and basketball games.

Christmas was a special time at the Dickman ranch. Ruth's eggnog recipe brought friends in from miles around. As the consummate hostess, there was always room for more and food for everyone. As the years progressed, it was fun to have friends and family call or come by and reminisce about these special holiday visits from years or even decades past.

Ruth's Catholic faith was a cornerstone of her life. She was a member of the Legion of Mary at St. Anthony's and the Perpetual Adoration at St. Patrick's, both of these groups devoted to the Rosary and the Blessed Mother Mary. Ruth said the rosary daily, often for hours, always praying for family, friends and anyone in need. Ruth supported a number of charities, notable was "Our Lady's Rosary Makers International" where she handmade rosaries for distribution around the world. Ruth and Bud also supported St. Joseph's Indian School in South Dakota. Ruth was especially fond of Sister Ann's luncheons, at St. Anthony's, where she enjoyed the warmth and companionship of good friends.

Ruth is survived by her six children, Annette Dickman of San Diego, Fred, Frank, and Michael of Manteca, Michelle, James and son-in-law Michael Maloof of Liberty Lake, Wash., sister Mary Beth Washam of Phoenix, Ariz. and grandchildren, Juliana Encinas and Jamie Dickman.

Any cousins, relatives of Ruth and the Peter Rhodd lineage are encouraged to contact Ruth's son Michael Dickman in California via email, michaeljmann2000@gmail.com.

P.L. Fry & Son is honored to be serving the Dickman family. There was a Rosary prior to mass on Dec. 15, 2014 at St. Patrick's Catholic Church. She was laid to rest with her beloved husband at St. John's Catholic Cemetery.



Jerry David Thomas

Jerry David Thomas, 45, of Norman, Okla. passed away January 21, 2015. He was born February 22, 1969 to Jerald and Lynn Thomas in Goldsboro, N.C.

He graduated from Lexington High School in 1987. Jerry heard his country's call and joined the United States Air Force and received an honorable discharge for services rendered to his

country. Jerry was previously employed 16 years by Hertz and IBM. He always listened to music. He loved all sports, especially the North Carolina Tarheels basketball and the Washington Redskins.

Most of all he loved spending time with his family, especially his children. Jerry is survived by his wife, Jenny Thomas; children, Tera, Rebecca, Rachel, Caden Thomas and Samuel and Annabelle Young; father, Jerald Thomas; mother, Lynn Thomas; brother, Scott Thomas, wife Denise and their children, Elena Thomas, and Jonathan Thomas.

He is preceded in death by his grandmother, Maurice Robinson.

Visitation were held Jan. 24, 2015 at John M. Ireland Funeral Home Chapel in Moore, Okla.



Michael Richard Howes

Michael Richard Howes, 59, of Belmont, Mass. walked on to lasting peace on September 20, 2014.

Mike is survived by his mother, Maureen (Pearl) Harris of Topeka, Kan., a brother, Bob, and niece Serena of Marlborough, Mass., and sister Mary Basham, also of Topeka. Mike is predeceased by his father Richard and brother Kevin.

Mike was a gregarious man, who rose above his physical and intellectual challenges to create a full and richer life for himself, and also for all those who came to know him.

Mike suffered from Type 1 diabetes and mental illness for most of his life. He lived on the spacious and peaceful grounds of Westborough State Hospital, in Westborough, Mass. from 1972 to 2010. There he was consistently and compassionately cared for by state mental health workers who considered Mike's personal growth much more than a job.

Mike interacted with nearly 100 of those hospital employees each day while working in the snack bar, or by helping to lighten a friend's load, or persuading the often humored, but vaguely unwilling kitchen worker to part with a smoke or cup of coffee.

Mike was very persuasive. He fielded countless marriage proposals to nurses and staff, with hopes of bending the rules in his favor. He often succeeded. He had a clarity for humor and timing. He engaged everyone he came in contact with. He didn't mind asking point blank questions, and could recognize irony a mile away.

Mikes' interests were simple. He loved to walk long distances through nature on the hospital grounds. On his walks through fields, and woods, passing ponds and marshes, he would encounter many birds and animals, some in which he developed a great interest. He loved to feed the many birds of the area, and knew many little known habits of deer

and other local wildlife. Almost nothing would stop Mike from his walks, and he experienced his natural environment in all seasons, and all types of weather.

He was especially proud of his niece Serena, and had an unrelenting interest in her progress in all of her school and extracurricular activities from kindergarten through junior high.

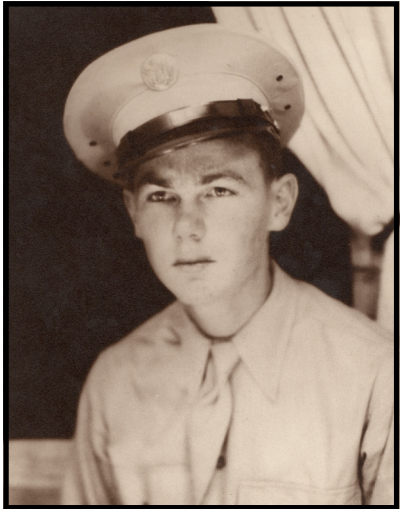
The hospital closed in 2010, and after 38 years there, Mike was relocated to an urban community home near Boston. Mike thrived in his new setting and made many new friends until his health began failing in 2012.

Mike passed away suddenly on the evening of September 20, 2014.

A service to honor Mike was held on October 5, in the small town of Southborough, Mass., the town of his grandparents, and many good memories. Attending the services were Robert and Janet Pearl coming from Parma Heights, Ohio, and Ann (Guerich) Dobson traveling from Manhattan, Kan.

The music of James Taylor's "Walking Man" and "Carolina in My Mind" accented the service, along with readings by Ann Dobson, and Janet Pearl. The hymn, "How Great Art Thou", central in the ceremony, was sung in Pottawatomie. Also in tribute was the reading of "Cross As Our Banner" written by Mary Slavin Doyle long ago, so kindly contributed by Mike's aunt, Sister Ginger Pearl.

In a private burial the following day, Mike's uncle Bob Pearl offered Christian prayers and Potawatomi ceremony, in tribute to this great man Michael, on his last peaceful walk home.



Troy A. Nadeau

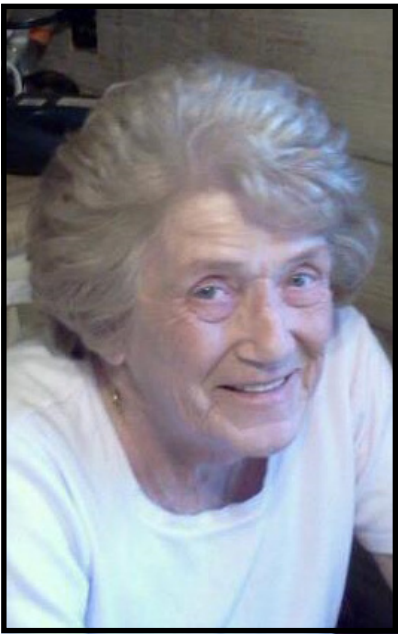
Troy A. Nadeau was born Mar. 28, 1926 in Shawnee, Okla. He died Oct. 27, 2014 at Sunrise Hospital in Las Vegas, Nev. at age 88. His parents were Ray A. Nadeau and Ruby (Kitchen) Nadeau.

Troy served in the U.S. Army from June 1944-October 1946. He spent nine months in southern Italy. He worked in construction, installing fire protection systems for about 37 years.

Troy married Ellouise Davis in 1947. They had five children; Kathleen, Troy Jr., Lucinda, Peggy Sue and Nita Jo.

He is preceded in death by his parents, daughter Lucinda and brother Joe Nadeau. He is survived by his wife Ellouise; his son Troy Jr. of Las Vegas; daughters Kathleen Pirtle of Oregon, Peggy Nadeau; Nita Jo McFawn of Las Vegas and Cheryle Trupp of Henderson, Nev.; brothers A.G. Odom of Oklahoma City, Okla. and James Hayden of Henderson, Nev.; 11 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren.

Troy was laid to rest on Nov. 4, 2014 at Palm Mortuary Cemetery in Henderson.



Roma Martin Collins

Roma June Martin Collins, age 76, of Loganville, Ga., formerly of Meriden, Kan., died Jan. 19, 2015. She was born in Rossville, Kan. to Ralph Jerome and Bertha Skidmore Martin.

A loving wife and mother, she was preceded in death by her husband, James Edward Collins and brother, Richard Martin. Surviving are her daughter, Crystal Wyatt of Loganville, Ga; son, Jimmy Joe Wyatt and wife, Shanda of Meriden, Kan.; brothers, Jerry Martin and wife, Denise of Loganville, Ga., Bill Martin and Rusty Martin, both of Kansas; sister, Jacky Martin of Kansas.

A memorial service was held January 22, in the chapel of Henry Funeral Home, with Rev. Cecil Morris officiating.



Scott Alan Swanson

Scott Alan Swanson, 53, of Lantana, Fla., passed away peacefully in his home on Sept. 29, 2014 with his wife and sons by his side. Scott was born on January 12, 1961 to Eldon Leroy Swanson and Gail Margaret Semmen in Minot, N.D. and raised in Marin County, Calif.

He married his sweetheart, Trang Cao (Nataly), in 1999 at Stafford Lake Park. Scott was first and foremost a father, a husband, and a brother. He enjoyed coaching young athletes, playing guitar, scuba diving, boating, playing poker and cheering on his beloved San Francisco 49ers. He made his living as an entrepreneur, opening his first business, Swan Motor Company, at the age of 24. He later flourished as a business owner and salesman in the durable medical equipment industry. Scott is survived by his sons, Scott Alan Swanson II, 24, and Joseph Eldon Swanson, 22.

Submitting obituaries

To submit an obituary, please send a word document and a 300dpi photo to hownikan@potawatomi.org.



Martha Sue Taylor Finley

Martha Sue (Taylor) Finley, 89 passed away on Aug.4, 2014 in Denver, Colo.

Martha Sue Taylor was born February 21,1925, in Wanette, Okla. to William Allison "Bill" and Mary Alice (LaReau) Taylor. Martha Sue was the eldest of four daughters, Mary Jo, Ruth Elizabeth, and Jean LaReau.

Martha Sue was the first grandchild of Louis Edmond and Martha Emma (Byrd) LaReau. At birth she was given her grandmother's name "Martha." Martha Sue is the granddaughter of Joseph and Madeline Bertrand, Alva and Julia Justine (Bertrand) Higbee, Joseph and Mary Anastayshia (Higbee) LaReau. Martha Sue was proud to be a descendant of a very strong Potawatomi family.

Martha attended school in Shawnee and graduated from Wanette High School, where she was valedictorian.

Sue was also an accomplished vocalist. Her fine soprano stood out in concert with Wanette High School Choir. A high in her musical career came at East Central University in Ada, Oklahoma. A state-wide singing competition was judged by an opera singer and national radio personality called the Princess of Song, Jessica Dragonette. Posterity wasn't left an official account of Sue's standing in that event; however, her participation was considered an honor by her family.

She was a graduate of Wanette High School. A straight "A" student. Sue graduated valedictorian with her senior class. With her school days behind her, she moved from Wanette to Oklahoma City to live and work.

Her vocal gift survives through her youngest daughter, Carolyn Finley, professor in the Music Department at St. Josephs College in Minnesota.

Martha Sue Taylor met Calvin Garrison Finley in Midwest City, Okla. and they were married July 2, 1954 in First Presbyterian Church in Portales, N.M. witnessed by Jack and Mary Flynt (Calvin's sister and brother-in-law.)

They lived their entire married life in Dallas and Plano, Texas. They were a lifelong, loving and devoted couple. You never saw Calvin without Martha Sue nor Martha Sue without Calvin. She had three children, Martha Jo, Carolyn and Calvin II.

While living in Plano, Martha

obtained a cosmetology degree and would always enjoy cutting and styling hair for family and friends. She later was a secretary and keypunch operator for H. Ross Perot's "EDS" Electronic Data Systems in Dallas, Texas.

Martha sang in the church choir and Calvin served on church committees. Both Martha and Calvin were licensed Hamm Radio operator's. Martha, Calvin and Calvin II, enjoyed rock collecting and polishing. Her children fondly remember the brief motorcycle riding years; one fall was all it took to discourage Martha from being a long-term devotee. Although Martha would never admit to being a fan of pets, she was always the one to care for the family pets, Cricket, Ralphie, and Sheeba and they were totally devoted to her.

Martha and Calvin loved to travel, especially on cruises. Calvin would meticulously plan day trips. They enjoyed their time together and loved spending quality time with their close friends, the Bushes, Warners, Myers, and countless others. Martha's answer to losing Calvin during football season was to host dinner parties at the same time. These special gathering's were enjoyed immensely by all who attended and fondly remembered by Martha and her children.

After Calvin's passing December 29, 1993, Martha moved to metro-Denver, Colo. She looked forward to living closer to her son Calvin II, daughter-in-law Jamie and her beautiful, beloved grandson's Dylan and Brandon. She "adored" her grandchildren!

As a widow in Denver, Martha made some very special girlfriends. They would enjoy volunteer activities, church and travel. She also enjoyed attending the Potawatomi tribal meetings in Denver, and one year she won a beautiful shawl in the raffle.

In Denver, the residents in Oakhurst Tower fondly commented on Martha's sweet smile, hazel eyes, beautiful Texas "BLINGY" wardrobe as well as her soft spoken words of encouragement, and acts of kindness to so many.

Martha was raised a Southern Baptist; she was able to worship her Lord in a variety of denominations, including Presbyterian, Methodist and Catholic liturgies. She believed in the power of prayer and she was a witness to her family about God's love and providence. She was a strong prayer warrior for her family, friends and anyone else God brought to her mind.

Martha's ministry as a Christian was helping others and encouraging those in distress. Her generosity was renown and she loyally gave to the homeless, injured Veterans, refugees, children and humane societies and other noble causes.

Martha leaves to mourn her passing, her three children; Daughter, Martha Jo Policastro of San Francisco, California; Daughter, Carolyn Finley and husband Edward Turley of St. Joseph, Minnesota; Son, Daughter in law, Grandson's; Calvin II, Jamie, Dylan and Brandon Finley of Denver, Colorado. Her sisters, Ruth "Bubbie" Secrest of Chapin, South Carolina and Jean Miller of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma and numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, and a host of friends.

Martha will be inurned next to her husband Calvin G. Finley in Dallas, Texas. The memorial service took place on September 6, 2014 in the Abbey Chapel at Restland Cemetery in Dallas.



Dwight Lee McKinney

(December 30, 1946 - September 21, 2014)

Dwight Lee McKinney, 67, of Catoosa, Okla. passed away on Sunday, September 21, 2014 with his family by his side. He was born on December 30, 1946 in Mayetta, Kan., the son of Henry and Anna (Rhodd) McKinney. Dwight grew up in Kansas and graduated from Powhattan High School. He furthered his education in automotive technician school at Haskell Technical College in Lawrence, Kan. Dwight also attended the University of Kansas.

He loved technology, the sciences, and always embraced the future. He led a very private life for the most part. Dwight was always fun to be around and known to be quite the jokester. He was also very handy. Dwight could fix anything...especially automobiles. His grandchildren were always impressed with his physical agility. Dwight was preceded in death by his parents, six brothers, and three sisters.

He is survived by his wife Linda; his son Michael D. McKinney and wife Gina, and their three children Dakota, William, and Johnathan; and his daughter Teva A. McKinney and her daughter Maysen McKinney-Smith.

Kennekuk Church Services were September 24, 2014 at the Kickapoo Community Building. Burial took place at the Kennekuk Cemetery on the Kickapoo Reservation. A special message may be sent to the family at www.dishon-maple-chaney.com.



Carmen Leolani White

Carmen's ALL Leukemia fight began May 26, 2011 – we almost lost her this day. She was very sick but she fought extremely hard – receiving platelets, blood transfusions, many, many pokes, sedations and a bone marrow biopsy. She recovered from the blood infection, became stronger and did really well with her first chemotherapy treatments a few days later.

Carmen received four blood transfusions, she received platelets, two bone marrow biopsies, a femoral line placement and removal in her leg with sedations, PICC line placement and removal in her arm with sedations, surgery with a port-a-cath placement in her chest, over 15 sedations with chemotherapy in her cerebral spinal fluid, countless rounds of chemotherapy, she has had 11 days in the hospital, a medi-vac flight from Kauai to Oahu, 40 days at the Pediatric Ambulatory

Unit Clinic, 35 flights away from home to Oahu, 45 overnight stays away from home from treatment and 100s of needle pokes.

Carmen remained sweet, funny, happy and creative throughout. She was full of so much light and love. She and her younger brother Trevor *loved* playing together every minute of every day. Trevor misses her dearly.

She was in remission and almost finished completing her maintenance therapy, which would have ended June 2013 when she became ill following a round of chemotherapy. She passed away suddenly in the arms of Chris and I at home on October 9, 2012.

This has been a devastating time for our entire family but we fight on everyday just like Carmen did.

We adopted a little boy from China June of 2014 named Jake. The day he arrived on earth is the day before Carmen flew "home." He is an absolute joy!

Carmen's six year old brother Trevor is a beautiful light and such a happy, special little person. He misses his big sister and talks about her daily.

We thank God for every day we had with her.

Mahalo Nui Loa from the bottom of our hearts.

Chris, Heather and Trevor & Jake White

<http://carmenleolaniwhite.blogspot.com/>



Joseph David Melott

Joseph David Melott, 84, of Shawnee, Okla. passed away Sunday, Dec. 28, 2014 in Shawnee. He was the eleventh of 12 children born to Reverend Louis and Mrs. Nellie Hicks Melott in the country near Binger, Okla. Joseph grew up in the Asher and Maud area until he was 13 years old. He took on the responsibility of farming for the family at the age of 11. He left home at the age of 13 to live with his sister in Vinita, Okla.

Joseph proudly served his county by enlisting in the Army Air Corp at the age of 15 and spent his 16th, 17th and 18th birthdays inside the Arctic Circle at a place called BW8. He transferred to the Air Force when it was made a separate branch and served his country for 22.5 years retiring in 1968 with the rank of SMSGT. Joseph served in the Korean conflict and in Spain helping to build a pipeline and served as head of the recruiting office in Tulsa, Okla. While serving in the military Joseph earned his Associates Degree. He was awarded the Soldier's Medal on March 18, 1957 for heroism not involving actual conflict with an enemy.

Upon retiring from the military he went to work for St. Francis Hospital in Tulsa as assistant executive housekeeper and retired at the end of 1989 as executive housekeeper. Joseph married his wife, Eileen Taylor, on August 12, 1967 in Miami, Okla. After retiring from St. Francis he and

his wife started traveling and enjoyed visiting all the states except Alaska and Hawaii. He was very active in the Masonic Lodge of Owasso #545, serving as Worshipful Master in 1987. That same year he served as Worthy Patron of Owasso Chapter #511 of the Order of Eastern Star with his wife. Joseph continued to be active in both orders in Tecumseh Masonic Lodge #69 and Shawnee Masonic Lodge #54. He was a member of both Owasso Lodge #545 and Shawnee Composite Lodge; a perpetual member of Owasso Chapter #511 of the Order of Eastern Star.

After moving to Shawnee he became active in Tribal activities. He was a proud member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation and was very active in forming the CPN Veterans Organization serving as the organization's third commander. Joseph was a member of the Sharon Baptist Church and enjoyed being with all of his sisters and brothers in the Togetherness Class.

He was preceded in death by his father, Reverend Louis Melott who died at age 96; his mother, Nellie Hicks Melott; sisters, LueBelle Hash, Cordelia Mitchell, Katherine Ferri, Viola Burrow, Thelma Highland and Mary Ruth Bledsoe; and brother, Ben Melott. Joseph is survived by his wife, Eileen Melott of the home; stepson, Jeff Jackson and wife, Tana of Tulsa, Okla.; son, Bill Melott of Tulsa, OK; sister, Emily R. Smith of Tulsa, OK; four grandchildren; many nieces, nephews, great-nieces and nephews; and a host of friends.

Services for Joe were held at Sharon Baptist Church with Reverend Bob Atwood and Reverend Clint Dawkins officiating. Burial folloed at Wanette Cemetery under the direction of Cooper Funeral Home of Tecumseh.



Shaye Christine Shelby

Shaye Christine Shelby, 17, of Topeka, passed away Tuesday, Dec.16, 2014. She was born Mar. 19, 1997 to Scott and Marcy Shelby. Shaye was a senior and soccer player at Shawnee Heights High School and had just graduated from Washburn Tech.

She is survived by her parents, and two brothers and a sister, Max (Lainey) Shelby, Koty (Shayna) Meens, and Corinne (Tyler) Tregellas and three beloved nephews. Grandparents, Jerry Dean and Jane Meens, Burle Shelby and Great Grandmother, Beulah Meens.

Shaye was a bubbly and loving young woman and will be deeply missed by her extended family and many friends.

Services were held Dec. 20, 2014 at the Berryton United Methodist Church. Cremation followed and private inurnment will take place at a later date. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Midland Care, 200 SW Frazier Circle, Topeka, KS 66606 or Helping Hands Humane Society, 5720 SW 21st St., Topeka, KS 66604.

Submitting obituaries

To submit an obituary, please send a word document and a 300dpi photo to hownikan@potawatomi.org.